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January 1998

The Free Will Baptist

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FEATURING:

.....
*Celebrating
125 Years of
Service*
.....

*A Man Sent
From God*
.....

*Commitment
to the Word*
.....

*The Crisis of
Leadership
"The Dangers of
Provincialism"*

To Begin Again

The poet, Louisa Fletcher, wrote:

"I wish there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
And all of our poor selfish grief
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door,
And never be put on again."

In reality life itself affords us opportunities to begin anew — to start over. Each morning provides us with a new beginning. We may simply pick up where we stopped the previous day, but with a renewed energy, or a new approach. Each morning is a new opportunity to work harder, to complete certain tasks, to serve our Lord with a renewed dedication.

In life's time schedule we also have the beginning of new weeks, new months, and new years. It is the start of each new year, however, that we place more emphasis upon. Some make New Year's resolutions, with a renewed determination to stick to that diet, to attend church regularly, to read the Bible each day, to pray more often, to be a better neighbor, to show more love for the spouse and children, to be more patient, to become a faithful tither, etc.

It is said that New Year's resolutions are made to be broken. Perhaps most of them will be broken, or forgotten, or pushed aside. The truth is that old habits are not easily broken, and new habits are not easily formed. When we really determine what we must do (or not do), when we truly "resolve," those resolutions made for this year will be faithfully kept. It is certain that each of us needs to improve, especially in our relationship to God.

There is a wonderful place of "beginning again." Actually, it can be any place, and it can begin at any time. How can it be? It is possible through faith in Jesus Christ as one receives Him and finds forgiveness. It's called conversion, being born-again, being saved, and being

reconciled to God. It is a transformation through which the soul is cleansed, Christ is enthroned, and one becomes "...a new creature: old things are passed away:

...and all things become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). This new life will culminate for the faithful in the place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us. All are invited to that "land of beginning again."



C. H. Oberman

Our Year of Celebration

As indicated on Page 4 of this issue, 1998 marks 125 years that *The Free Will Baptist* has served our denomination. Each of the twelve issues will contain articles or items pertaining to this publication. When the Convention of the Original Free Will Baptists meets next September, the Tuesday evening service will focus on the history of the Free Will Baptist Press and *The Free Will Baptist*.

As one of the ministries of our denomination, we can be proud of the role the Free Will Baptist Press has played in our history. The vision of our early leaders one hundred and twenty-five years ago to begin a church publication was most certainly in accord with His divine Plan. The subsequent establishment of a publishing house simply broadened that vision and led to the printing of literature and other publications for our denomination, as well as a place where all kinds of church supplies could be purchased.

Please continue your prayers for this ministry, especially those involved in it — that's the most important thing you can do for us. Also please allow this ministry to serve both you and your church in the supplying of your needs in literature, and church supplies, and in subscribing to *The Free Will Baptist*. May God grant us many more years to serve our Lord and our beloved denomination.

Out Of the Past — (98 Years Ago)

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST.

"LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE"

Vol. 18.

AYDEN, N. C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1900.

No. 50.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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NEXT MONTH

February is
Sunday School and
Christian
Education Month

January
is
Retirement Ministries
Month



1873 - 1998

*Celebrating 125 Years
of Service
to Original Free Will Baptists*

Did You Know?

The Free Will Baptist has its beginning in 1873. In its meeting at Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Wayne County, NC, the General Conference passed a resolution which called for the beginning of a "church organ." Mr. E. R. Ellis accepted the responsibility and *The Free Will Baptist* had its beginning. The first office was located in the town of Fremont and the publication was called *The Free Will Baptist Advocate*. After moving to Toisnot, about ten miles north of Wilson, the name was changed to *Toisnot Transcript*, a title that was unacceptable to many subscribers. The publication was suspended for a time. A move was made back to Fremont and it was once again given the original title. After several other moves, its printing was moved to Ayden in 1895, where it has remained; however, it has moved several times within the town. In January 1968, the entire printing operation moved into its present location, 811 North Lee Street, Ayden. In 1985 *The Free Will Baptist* became a monthly publication.

Since its beginning 125 years ago, *The Free Will Baptist* has served as a major source of inspiration and news for Original Free Will Baptists. Its bound volumes serve as a history of events that have shaped the destiny of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination.

"A Man Sent From God"

Frank R. Harrison, Campus Minister, Mount Olive College

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light" (John 1:6-8).

"What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men who the Holy Ghost can use — men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men — men of prayer... The sermon is full of divine unction because the man is full of the divine unction" (E.M. Bounds, *Power Through Prayer*).

"Do not we rest in our day too much on the arm of flesh? Cannot the same wonders be done now as of old? Do not the eyes of the Lord still run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those who put their trust in Him? Oh, that God would give me more practical faith in Him! Where is now the Lord God of Elijah? He is waiting for Elijah to call on Him" (James Gilmour, *Missionary to Mongolia*).

When God decides the time is right, He sends forth His servant to prepare the way. He sent forth a Moses, a David, a Deborah, a Samuel, a Jeremiah, and John the Baptist. Great revivals are preceded by those voices and hearts who have been prepared at the heavenly altar! It takes a messenger who "fears no one but God, and hates nothing but sin" to proclaim the message of the forerunner — he is sent from God!

The message of the forerunner must be a message purified and formed by the very fire from heaven. Isaiah found himself unprepared and unable to speak for God: "...I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of people of unclean lips..." (Isaiah 6:5). A seraphim took a coal of heavenly fire from the altar in the Temple and touched his lips, cleansing and taking away his sin, whereupon Isaiah is commissioned as a spokesman for God. Dear reader, can any man or woman be fit to preach and speak for God who has not been touched with fire from heaven?

When Jeremiah decided not to make mention any more of the Lord, nor to speak in His Name, he found a burning fire within, a seething that

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compelled him to give his voice to God's message. Outward circumstances and his relation to the people tempted him to quit the ministry, but the inward fire of God in his heart would not let him stop speaking in the Name of the Lord. The word and ministry of God were within his heart and would not let him go. Someone said Jeremiah was like the man who had the billy goat by the horns and cried: "Somebody come and help me turn this thing loose!"

How we preachers need the renewal of the divine fire within — a fire that will give us the Christ-like passion, John the Baptist boldness, the Pauline urgency, the Holy Spirit endowment of power that will compel us to say with Peter and John: "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

Beloved, how we have depended on our own knowledge, our culture, our methodology at the expense of the Holy Spirit endowment of supernatural power that sat upon the disciples at Pentecost! While our knowledge and methods are indeed important and necessary, let us not forget that God must ultimately supply the vision and power for His church, not culture and institutions alone! How many good and Godly men and women are sent out each year from schools and seminaries across America, only to stumble and flounder, suffering disappointment and defeat in the ministry. They do not bring the power of Pentecost into their labors as Barnabas and Paul who went out, "...being sent forth by the Holy Ghost..." (Acts 13:4), with miracle-working power that gave testimony that they were from the Lord! There is a holy something, a divine ingredient, a restlessness, a supernatural energy — which we do not have of ourselves — that called, led, impassioned, and empowered God's chosen.

Let the reader beware that in the history of the Christian church, great moves of God most often are rejected by the mainstream denominations and religious leaders because it does not fit their particular frame of reference or "theological boxes." (John Wesley, Charles Finney, Dwight L. Moody, and Evan Roberts are good examples).

The great man of God, Samuel Chadwick, of
Cont. on next page

Commitment To The Word —by the Rev. Rudy Owens

(This message was delivered during the 1997 Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist.)

Please turn in your Bible to 2 Corinthians, Chapter 5. It's a great privilege and real honor to be asked to come and address this great congregation. I was saved in the Free Will Baptist Church, I was called to preach in the Free Will Baptist Church, married in the Free Will Baptist Church, carried my children to the Free Will Baptist Church, and privileged to serve our wonderful Lord Jesus in the Free Will Baptist Church. To be able to stand at the Convention and share in its ministry is truly an honor. But I must confess this honor is overshadowed by the honor of standing and proclaiming the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, our wonderful Lord and Saviour. I must add a personal note before we look into God's Word. Many of you are aware that the Branch Chapel Church suffered a tragedy. Just a little over a year ago, on August 10, 1996, our church sanctuary building burned and was totally lost to fire. I want to say a personal thank you to the many churches and individuals in the churches that helped us by praying for us, by coming to our aid, by loaning us song books, by making financial contributions. It really magnified the name of the Lord Jesus, in the way that you responded to the needs of your sister church. May God bless you for it. And I am glad to report, the Lord willing, we will be in our new building by the end of October. So please pray for us in that area.

I became a little concerned this morning when it was time for the moderator's remarks and Brother Ray started meddling with my sermon. I said, "Thank you, Lord, that the Holy Spirit is

working in the same direction." Now please, if you don't hear anything else I say, and I sure hope you are listening; but, if you don't hear anything else, there is nothing more important than for each of us, who are part of the Free Will Baptist Church, than to glorify God. That's number one. That's priority one. That's first place. That's foundational — it goes without saying. The whole gist of my message this morning will be centered around that one thought, that we must glorify our great God. For my friends, if we fail to glorify Him, we have completely failed our purpose of living.

Now, we will note our Scripture, beginning with Verse 17 and we will read to the end of the chapter.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God, was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

When I received the phone call inviting me to preach at the Convention, needless to say, I was surprised and overwhelmed; but very thankful for the privilege. I was given the topic, "Commitment to the Word." Now I had no idea that I would ever have the opportunity to stand and address this Convention, but had I chosen to do so and had been given the opportunity to choose my topic, I would have chosen: "Commitment to the Word." In this passage of Scripture that I have just read, it's very evident that God, the Almighty One, the Creator of all that exists, the Eternal One, has privileged us, you and me, to have the opportunity to be involved in what He is doing. Do you recognize the magnitude of that? That the God of Eternity would allow us to be involved in what he is doing in His creation. And He declares in this passage that we have been given the ministry of reconciliation. You do understand that this is a ministry that no other group in the world has. It cannot be legislated, it cannot be influenced, it can only be proclaimed. And the power of the spirit of God must grant the increase. More

"A Man Sent From God" Cont....

England, states: "The church that is man-managed instead of God-governed is doomed to failure. A ministry that is college-trained but not Spirit-filled works no miracles."

Let us heed the words of evangelist Leonard Ravenhill: "Oh, we need the fire! Where is the power of the Holy Ghost that slays sinners and fills our altars? Today we seem much more interested in having churches air conditioned than prayer-conditioned. Our God is a consuming fire! God and fire are inseparable; so are men and fire. Every single one of us is now treading a path of fire — hell-fire for the sinner, judgment — fire for the believer! Because the church has lost Holy Ghost fire, millions go to hell-fire" (*Why Revival Tarries*, p 102).

"The voice of one that crieth, Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of the Lord,..." In His own way, in His own time, God chooses those who will go before to prepare the way. The vision will be written upon their hearts; the word will be upon their lips, and divine expectancy will characterize their lives! They are sent from God! Their message is His message: "Prepare ye the way — the King is coming! The King is coming! Hallelujah!"

specifically, we are told in this passage of Scripture that this ministry that God has called us to is accomplished as God has committed unto us (now grasp the responsibility here) *the word of reconciliation*. If we understand, and I'm certainly not going to go back into those fundamental areas if we don't understand, that we live in a lost world. Without Jesus Christ, there is no hope. And God has committed unto us the word of reconciliation to reconcile lost humanity back unto a Holy God. What a responsibility that is. How can we fulfill this honor? Well, I want to challenge you this morning, as God has challenged me in the last weeks and months, as I have prayed, and labored, and studied, and prepared for today. May we be challenged to commit ourselves to the Word. Only as we are committed to the Word will the commitment which God has given us be accomplished. And there is no *other way*. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, less any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). So how does God give this faith to us that we might trust in Him. The Scriptures very plainly declare, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing, by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

May I approach this topic of commitment to the Word in three different ways. First, if we are to accomplish this ministry of reconciliation, if we are to fulfill the commitment to which God has entrusted us, *we must be committed to the Living Word*. There are many religions in the world. I could spend time naming some, but you are aware of them. Christianity transcends religion, for Christianity is a person and His name is Jesus. And we must understand that. There is more to the Word than just a Book. Now please don't misinterpret what I'm saying. I revere this Book; for I believe it is *the Word of God*. But it goes beyond just the book. John 1:1-3 declares, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without him was not anything made that was made." In Verse 14

personality is attached to that Word. When the Scripture says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)..." So there is the Living Word that transcends just the written Word. Jesus declared in John 5:39: "Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

This Book, from cover to cover, proclaims the name of Jesus. He is presented in so many different ways all through the pages of this marvelous Book. We have but to go back to the Book's very beginning. In the third chapter of Genesis we see Jesus as the *Seed of the Woman*, who shall bruise the head of the serpent. We have but to go back to the prophecy of Isaiah and discover there that He is presented as the *Wonderful Counselor*, the *Mighty God*, the *Everlasting Father*, the *Prince of Peace*. We go back to Genesis and we see Him again in *Abel's lamb*. We see Him in Joshua as the *Captain of the Lord's Host*. In Leviticus we see Jesus as the *Scapegoat*. We could go through all the pages of each Book, and chapter after chapter of the Word of God, and there is presented the *Living Word*, Jesus, the Christ. That's what this Book is all about, until it comes to its grand crescendo and the revelation of Jesus Christ is proclaimed and He is presented as Lord God Almighty. We have a Living Word and we must be committed to *who He is*.

We must be committed to *what He has done*. He gave His life. This is significant in our modern days. Not many of us here today have had to put our lives on the line. We really don't grasp the gravity of the one statement, *He gave His life*. If in our spiritual thinking we could go back and catch the vision of Jesus as He was brutalized by those Roman soldiers, as the scourge tore the flesh from His body; if we could see the blood flow as the crown of thorns was pressed upon His precious brow; if we could hear the awful sounds of the hammer as it drove the spikes through the flesh of Jesus, we could realize He did not have to do that. He chose to do so because He loved you.

I like to change the words in songs sometimes, not that I think that I'm

gifted with the ability of a songwriter, but some of them just fit me better:

"Jesus loves me this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
we are weak but He is strong."

It's not, "*they are weak*," it's me! Jesus died for me! It's a personal thing; He did it for me! And He did it for you! And we need to love Him, and we need to adore Him, and we need to honor Him, and we need to worship Him, and we need to magnify Him, and we need to glorify Him, for He is worthy. For He took our guilt away. I love 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him (*Jesus*) to be sin for us, (*for me*) who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." This Jesus has done all of this for me! He suffered, agonized and loved me, and loves you.

If we are to be committed to the living Word we must be committed to *who He is* and *what He has done* and to *what this means*. In Hebrews 1:3 the Scripture says, "Who being in the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high." Where is Jesus today? If you were to ask some of the little children in Sunday school, they would say, "He is in my heart." And I sure hope He is, but He is also seated at the place of honor at the right of the Father in the heavenly place. He is there making intercession for us. He is in the place of reverence. He is in the place of honor and He is worthy of all honor. You can turn to the fourth Chapter of the Book of Revelation and you see the heavenly multitude as they began to worship God and to honor God and to praise God. A Lamb has been slain. And He deserves our honor, our worship, and our commitment.

Please, please be kind as I say what I'm about to say. We love John, Chapter 14. I do and I hope you do. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come

Cont. on next page

again and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also" (vv. 1-3). Well, I'm looking forward to that. I'm looking forward to that reward God has prepared for me, that place in eternity that is mine, that place Jesus has prepared through His sacrifice and by His love and His commitment to me. We like that passage, but what about the next three verses. Somehow we seem to neglect those verses. If there is a need in the Free Will Baptist Church today, it's a need to go to those next three verses and recognize who Jesus is. Jesus said to His disciples, when He had told them He was going to prepare a place for them, "And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me.*" Did you hear what the Word says? Jesus is the only way to the Father. My friends, we are not honoring this Jesus, this Lord, this Magnificent One, this Altogether Lovely One, when statements are made publicly that you can be a Moslem, or Hindu, a member of Judaism, or even treat your family good and still be accepted by God. That doesn't honor Jesus and it doesn't honor Jesus to sweep it under the rug and not do something about it. He is worthy; not me, not you. He is worthy of all honor and all glory.

Then there must be commitment not only to the Living Word, but there must be commitment to the *Written Word*. There must be a commitment to *believe its words* — this Book that we call "The Holy Bible." Either this is the Word of God or it is not the Word of God. Either it is wholly (with a W) of God or its not Holy (with a H).

Psalms 90:9 makes a reference to life as a "...tale that is told." Would you allow me to tell a tale for just a moment. Now understand this is a tale. It's a made up story. And I'm going to use myself as the principle in the story. Some time ago, I was looking for a secretary. I had advertised, received applications, and began the interview process. I interviewed this one lady and in the interview I asked her if she had typing skills. She said, "Oh yes, I can type 120 words a minute." I thought,

"Wow! It must be nice." I said, "What about computer skills?" "Oh yes, I know WordPerfect, I know Lotus 1-2-3, I am very good in Microsoft Word and Excel." And I thought, "Um-um, this sounds fantastic." She told me of other skills that she had and I put her to work. The first day on the job, as I walked into her office, I saw her as she was working on a report I had given her to type. And she was doing this number on the computer. Peck, peck, peck. I said, "Excuse me. I thought you told me you could type." She replied, "Well, I can. Don't you see me?" I said, "But you said you could type 120 words a minute." She said, "I embellished it just a little bit." Then she said, "Can you tell me how this crazy word-processing program works? I answered, "But you told me you knew how to use it." She replied, "What's wrong with a little hyperbole?" Now what do you think I did with that woman in my tale that is told?

Yet, we approach the Word of God and we say it contains the Word of God. But I'll decide what part God gave and what part He did not give, because God just embellished certain places and didn't tell the truth. But I declare to you today that God cannot lie and this is His Word, from Genesis to Revelation. It is the inerrant, infallible, never changing Word of God that shall endure when you and I and others, who are skeptics, are long gone. So someone says, "How do you know that God gave all of the Bible?" My answer: "because He said He did and that is good enough for me." "All Scripture, (not some Scripture) is given by inspiration of God..." The Greek there is, "God breathed." It came from God Himself. It is not part of it, it is all the Word of God. Oh, I know, it is considered scholarship to debate Matthew's mistakes in copying Mark's Gospel. I'll tell you where the mistake is — it is in debating such ridiculous hypocrisy. God gave it to Matthew just like He gave it to Mark. And then, it is considered scholarship to debate the *synoptic problem*. I don't have a problem with the synoptic. And I'm not sure they have a synoptic problem. I'm afraid it would better be described by calling it a *heart problem* of those who don't believe God when God said He

gave us this Word. If we can't trust this Word, then why not throw it away and develop our own philosophy?

We must be committed to the written Word to *understand its message*. It's not by following the latest trends that faith is produced. Mind you, we must use every means at every time and every situation to point people to Jesus, but it is the Word of God that produces the faith for them to trust Him.

We must be committed to the written Word by *agreeing on its meaning*. Whoa! What did he say? The Prophet Amos declared, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed" (Amos 3:3). When I was a young preacher, in fact, I had just been ordained, I came to the Convention. I was in the lunch line with my pastor. There were several preachers standing there, some that I didn't know, and I heard one preacher say, "The things I like about being a Free Will Baptist is that you can be a Free Will Baptist and believe in anything you want to believe." You know, I'm afraid that's the attitude of a lot of folks. I'm afraid that may be why we are not seeing the manifold blessings that God desires to pour out on the Free Will Baptist Church. It's not Biblical to have the idea that I can believe one thing and you can believe something else about the Word of God. Acts 1:14; 2:1, 42; 4:24; 5:12; 15:25; Romans 12:6; 15:6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:1; Philippians 1:27; 2:2, all speak of being in one accord being of one mind. God wants us to believe the same thing! That's why we are Free Will Baptists.

For over 25 years I've attended the Convention of the Original Free Will Baptists. I've heard great preachers stand right where I'm standing today. I've heard great words of encouragement and challenge. I remember hearing Brother David W. Hansley stand one day and talk about those who were departing from what we believe the Bible teaches and says, "It's okay if they want to believe that, but let them go somewhere besides the Free Will Baptist Church." We have an established doctrine that we believe the Bible teaches. It's time, if we expect God to honor us, that we honor His Word by being committed to the *same mind*. It's time that we decide what we

believe about the inerrancy of Scripture. It's time we decide what we believe about the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. It's time that we decide what we believe about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It's time we come together and say, "This is what Free Will Baptists believe and we will not deviate from the Word of God!"

We must be committed to the written Word, but we must be committed to *practice the Word*. To experience Jesus Christ, the *Living Word*, is essential. To accept the Holy Bible as God's *Written Word* is foundational. But to fail to practice the presence of Jesus Christ and to fail to practice the teachings of the Word of God means we have failed in our purpose. You can talk and you can preach and you can have this program and you can have this study session and you know, I believe in doing all of that. But if you don't live it, folks, what good is it? If we don't have a desire to help the hurting, if we don't have the compassion of Jesus Christ, if we can't love others as He loves us, what good have we accomplished? We have been commissioned with the *word of reconciliation*. There is no other word of reconciliation. God doesn't have a plan "B." This is the commitment that God has given to us. And it is only as we commit ourselves to God's call upon our lives, and commit ourselves to His Word that He gets glory. Otherwise, we get the glory. And I don't want it, because I don't deserve any of it. But He deserves it all. To go into the highways and hedges, into the shopping malls, and the factories, the offices, the school houses, when you take your kids to T-Ball practice, when you drive down the highway, we must be committed to Jesus who is the living Word.

Pray with me:

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us enough to give your Son to die for us. Thank you for trusting us enough to commit unto us the only hope that this world has. God move in us to rid ourselves of any pride, of any selfishness, of anything that would stop us from fulfilling this commitment. In the name of Christ Jesus, Father, we pray. Amen.

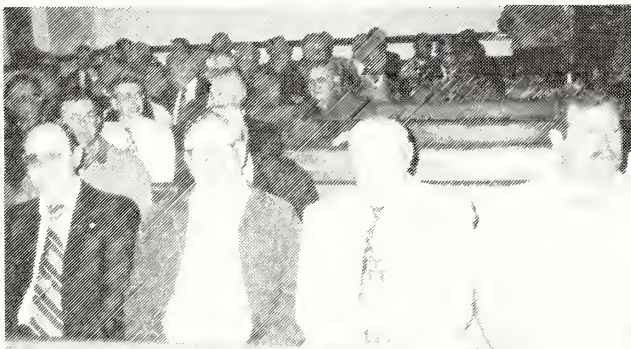
LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

Central Conference Meeting

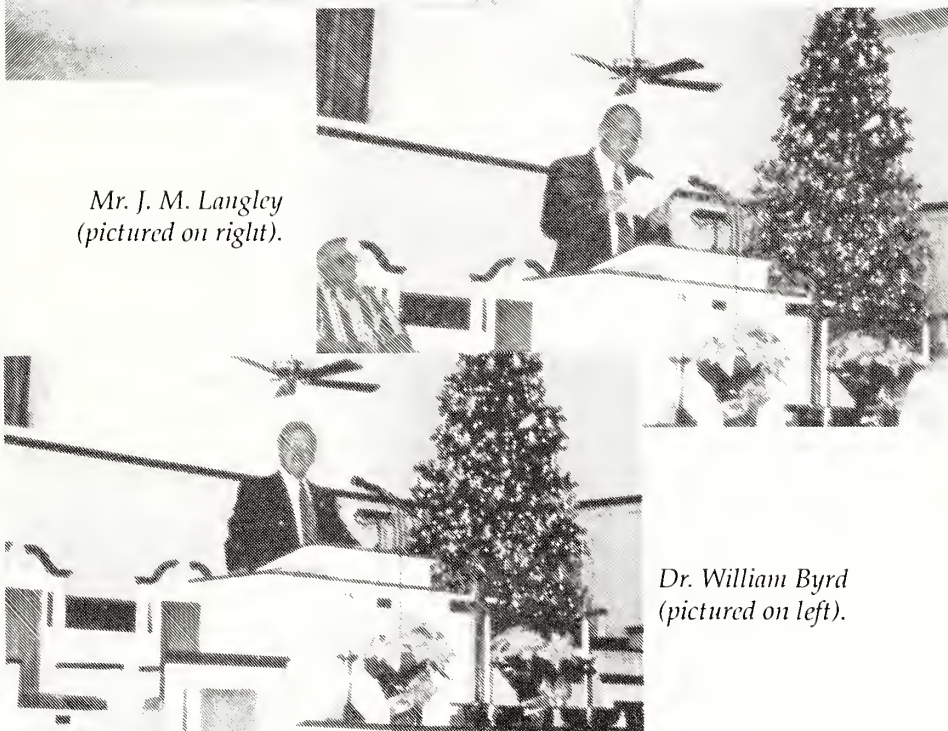
The Layman's League of the Central Conference met at the First Original Free Will Baptist Church, Tarboro, NC, on November 3, 1997. More than one hundred twenty men from the various churches, including several ministers, were in attendance.

Each of these district meetings begins with a meal that is provided by the host Church. After the meal, the men moved into the sanctuary for a devotional service, followed by the business session. The devotional message was presented by J. M. Langley, a member of the Tarboro Church.

During the September meeting, the decision was made to invite one of the ministry directors to bring a report; thus, Mount Olive College was invited to report at this meeting. Dr. J. William Byrd, President of the College addressed the League. The next invitation was extended to The Free Will Baptist Press.



The men await the beginning of the devotional service (pictured on left).



Mr. J. M. Langley (pictured on right).



Dr. William Byrd (pictured on left).

January 8, 1998

Layman's League Executive Board, Free Will Baptist Headquarters, Ayden, 7:30 PM.

Denominational Ministries



A New Year! What Do You Expect?

You could make a list of ideas that you hope to explore, a list of things you would like to do, a list of places you would like to go or a list of people you would like to meet. Your list or lists would depend on your interests. Every person would have a different understanding of the question and therefore, a different answer.

All the experiences that have been a part of your life would help to determine your choices. The same is true for Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Ministry. It must be emphasized, however, that our most pressing interest is people, people who are preparing to face the issues brought on by retirement.

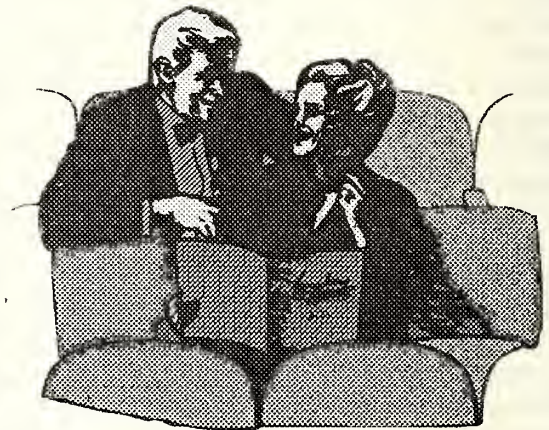
One of the issues is housing and Retirement Ministry is certainly concerned with housing. We have three persons for whom we provide housing on a program participation basis. It should be remembered that housing is not limited only to the building, it includes basic appliances, basic utilities, as well as yard care, in addition to the basic building. Retirement Ministry also provides a bit of personal care for its residents, in that they have some one to call to aid them with their living needs. But the idea of Retirement Ministry is much more than this.

We have acquired a video program, entitled *The Aging Parent*, which will help the viewer to better understand and prepare for the necessity of placing a parent in some type of group care. It also, deals with issues that the parent can and must meet for the child to be able to provide the best available care. This video is approximately 3 1/2 hours long and would best be used as a workshop along with informed discussion about possible situations.

Please contact the Executive Director, at the Headquarters, to schedule a workshop or a series of workshops. In addition to the video workshop, there are several issues that would be very useful as a workshop or discussion topic; to help to better meet the needs of our elderly and our congregations.

As we go into a new year we need to begin to wrestle with the needs of our various peoples and try to prepare to assist our churches in meeting those needs. One of the growing concerns should be the tragedy of elder abuse. Old people, and some not so old, are a growing target for scam artists and others who would cheat and steal from them. We, Original Free Will Baptists, have an obligation to reach out and help our elderly; these are the people who have brought us to our present situation.

We owe them a pleasant and meaningful life.



**January is Retirement Homes Month
and**

Sunday, January 25, 1998

is

Retirement Ministry Sunday

**Please remember our needs with a special
offering**

Send to:

Retirement Ministry

PO Box 39

Ayden, NC 28513-0039

Hallelujah!

Retirement Ministry is pleased to announce that the sale of the old clinic property is finally complete. We are no longer responsible for that property nor its associated indebtedness.

Anniversary of the Peniel Free Will Baptist Church, Jose Maria Morelos, Acuña Coahuila, Mexico — by Antonio Escobar

We visited Morelos on the Eighteenth Anniversary of the Church and gathered with the brethren to rejoice with them and the pastor; to wish them congratulations for all these years that they have been preaching the gospel. This church has been the flame where many souls have come to know Christ as Saviour. In the past few months many people have immigrated to the nearest cities for work and a school to educate their children. However, there are families here in Morelos and from nearby villages that continue to worship in this church.

Brother Toribio Lugo, pastor of the Tabernacle Free Will Baptist Church in the city of Acuña, is the one who has worked much, journeying with regularity to this village to help the pastor in revival meetings and construction. Brother Toribio was the initiator of the work in Morelos. In times past, the trip from Acuña to Morelos took from 12 to 14 hours. The road was very bad. Today it takes only 7 hours. However, the length of the trip is not so bad when you know you will rejoice with the brethren and fellowship in the blessings of God in every worship service.

These pictures were taken at the Morning Worship Service. This place lends itself to these services because of its peacefulness. (This is where the Short-Term Team will hold a Youth Camp in August 1998.) We pray that it will be a great blessing to all the churches.

Let us pray for this church and pastor so that they can continue preaching the gospel in these villages that are so far from the larger cities.



Baptismal Service, Lily of the Valley Free Will Baptist Church, Piedras Negras, Mexico — by Antonio Escobar

The Lily of the Valley Free Will Baptist Church has been working on a campaign program in which they shared invitations with people to attend the worship services. They are also having services in the neighborhood and in homes. The results have been good. Non-believers have come to listen to the gospel. Some have made professions of faith and accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour and are attending the church. The brethren are also working on a program of visitation, going from house-to-house, sharing literature and giving their testimony with those who do not know Christ. This work has given us four persons who have been saved and baptized. They were also added to the church as active members (Brother Luise Esquivel is the pastor).



On this same day, the Prince of Peace Free Will Baptist Church, where Brother Miquel Moncada is the pastor, seven brethren were placed under the water of baptism.

Let us pray for these new members who have joined these churches. Pray also that they will reach out to others with their testimony.

Annual Telethon

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1998

Dear Lord, Help us reach the Philippines, Mexico, Nepal, India, Bulgaria and the nations of the earth.



THEME: "Pray For Them"

THEME CHAPTER: John 17

THEME VERSE: John 17:20

The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions gives us the opportunity to remember the nations of the earth through prayer and giving.

GOAL 1998: A total of \$125,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached, if we ask the Lord to place the peoples of the earth on our hearts and believe Him for the power and means to reach them.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL.

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 PM. Dial (919) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call will stand as testimony of your commitment in prayer and giving to reach the lost in every nation.

**GOD HEARS OUR PRAYER AND SEES OUR GIVING
AND BLESSES US OPENLY**

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS

March 22, 1998

Prayer for others is the true spirit of intercession and brings new life to our souls.

PRAYER GOAL MARCH 22, 1998:

All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival. Let us pray!



BOARD OF
FOREIGN MISSIONS
Post Office Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
919-746-4963

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 1998

And Plan to Attend the

Annual World Missions Conference

**Sponsored by the
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**

Speakers:

Willem and Lydia van der Plas
Missionaries to Eastern Europe

Place:

College Hall, Mount Olive College

Time:

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Schedule:

First Session — 5:00 PM

Light Meal — 6:00 PM

Final Session — 7:00 PM

Special Note:

Willem and Lydia will be in North Carolina for a short time and will only be able to visit a limited number of churches. We, therefore, encourage churches throughout the denomination to call off your Evening Worship Service on March 1 and attend the Mission Conference. This will be a great way to show your support for these dear missionaries. This will be an exciting time of fellowship, worship, and music. Plan now to attend.



**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND
BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU. PRAY
DAILY FOR A GREAT CONFERENCE.**



**BOARD OF
FOREIGN MISSIONS**
Post Office Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
919-746-4963

Friends of Children Day was full of good food, smiles, and surprises as over 288 people celebrated this day for many who support the Children's Home through the Friends of Children program.



Mr. Donald Batchelor was surprised with a tribute made to him for over 20 years of service to the Children's Home as Director of Physical affairs. (Pictured below.)



Friends of Children Day



The Rev. Doug Skinner was the host speaker. He was honored for 15 years of service on the Board of Directors for the Children's Home. (Pictured above.)



Everyone enjoyed the music of "Covenant." (Pictured above.)



Thank you Friends of Children.

New Upholstery

Dr. and Mrs. Cedric Pierce and the youth of Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Newton Grove, NC visited our campus to return new upholstered chairs for Memorial Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. The new fabric was an improvement to the podium chairs at the front of the Church. Thank you members of Oak Grove youth.



Mr. and Mrs. Cedric Pierce of Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Newton Grove.



The Youth of Oak Grove.



Welcome Board Members

Appointed to the Board of Directors for the Children's Home during the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in September 1997 were, Mr. Ron Settle of the Pee Dee Conference, Elizabeth Brinchek and Franklin Vester both of the Western Conference.



January

Celebrating 125 Years of Christian Service.

Prayer

Things

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
28	29	30	31
4	5	6	7
11	12 Mount Olive College Visitation Day 9:15 AM	13 Mount Olive College Classes Begin	14
18	19 Mount Olive College High School Visitation Day 9:15 AM	20 11:00 AM Mount Olive College, Spring Convocation	21
25 Retirement Homes Sunday	26	27	28

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

ncerns _____

Remember _____

THU		FRI	SAT
1 FWB Press and Bookstores Closed MOC Closed Headquarters Closed New Years Day	2	3	
8 Layman's League Headquarters 7:30 PM	9	10 State Youth Board Murphy Regional Center 8:00 AM	
15	16	17 Woman's Auxiliary, Executive Meeting	
22	23	24	
29	30	31	

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

Ugandan Minister Speaks at MOC

The Rev. Henry John Kulale from Uganda, Africa, was the guest speaker at Mount Olive College's weekly worship service on Tuesday, November 18, in Rodgers Chapel.

Several student organizations sponsored the service which focused on world hunger.

A special offering was collected for World Vision, an international Christian organization dedicated to the relief of world-wide hunger and medical care.

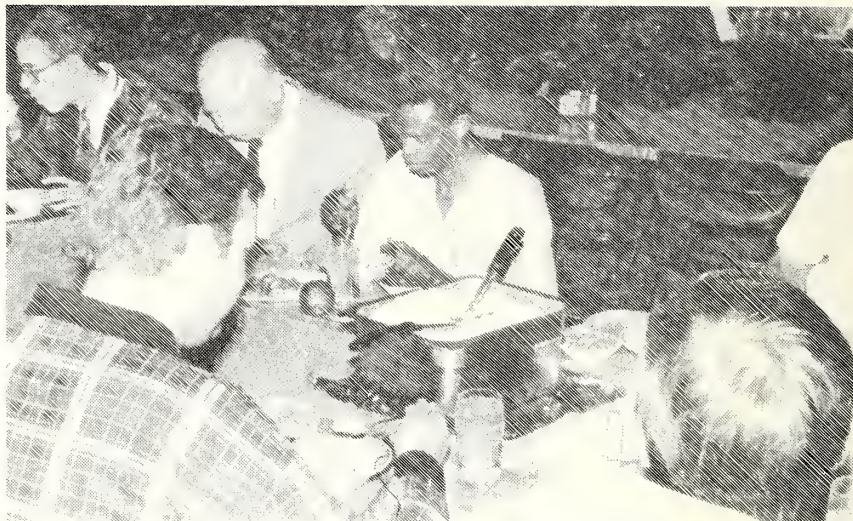
Following the service, some students and faculty had a lunch consisting of rice and water in the Murphy Regional Center, as a symbol of their trying to understand world hunger.

Kulale talked about tribal loyalties and ambitious, self-centered leaders, as the root causes for many of Africa's problems, such as its widespread hunger and poverty.

He urged everyone to pray for the people and leaders of Africa.

Rev. Kulale is in Mount Olive until February seeking resources for his ministry and speaking at churches throughout the area.

Students who participated in the service were: Ernie Taylor, Julie Wetherington, Robert Watson, Kristen Carroll, Joey Williams, and Dorseitta

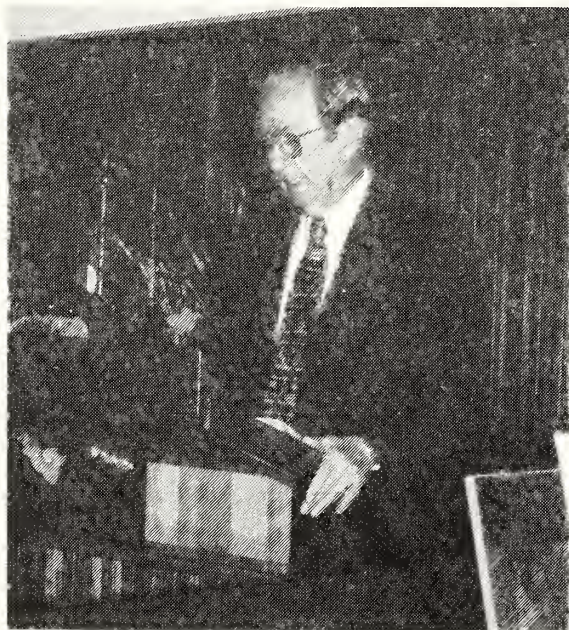


Brad Williamson, a student from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville, shares some rice with the Rev. Kulale, the Rev. Harrison and others in a symbolic gesture to understand those who suffer from hunger.

Sulyans.

The program was sponsored by Student Government Association, Students Theological Fellowship, Fellowship of Christian Students, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the junior class, and the Volunteer Corps.

Albertson and Brown Honored for 30 Years



The Rev. C. H. Overman spoke at the Founders Day worship service on November 25, 1997.

The Mount Olive College community honored seventeen employees at its Founders Day service on Tuesday, November 25. During the ceremony, Dr. J. William Byrd, president, presented engraved Salisbury pewter pitchers to Ms. Annie B. Albertson and Mr. Willie A. Brown, Jr., for 30 years of service.

Students, faculty, staff, trustees, and friends from Free Will Baptist churches filled Rodgers Chapel to hear the Rev. C. H. Overman commemorate the college's heritage and to watch as service awards were presented to employees celebrating fifth year anniversaries.

Mr. Overman is editor of *The Free Will Baptist Press*. For more than 45 years, Overman has served the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists as pastor of 10 churches and as administrator in several positions within the Convention. Originally from Wayne County, he also taught in the public schools in Craven and Greene counties for 20 years.

"It is a privilege to be a part of Mount Olive College and to see its growth and hear what people say," Overman said.

Making many references to Scripture, Overman talked about how with God and with faith, anything was possible.

"Faith has been exercised by many," he said, referring to those who conceived of establishing the college and shepherded it through its earlier years.

Despite doubters along the way and feeble financial footings at times,

Overman said, "Look around and what do you see — a beautiful campus.

"It has succeeded," he said, referring to the college's present circumstances.

"We are gathered for a high purpose," Byrd said in brief remarks. "To put into place who we are, we must first understand where we have been."

In thanking employees for their service, Byrd described their contributions and presented each with a gift engraved with the college seal, their initials, and the date of their employment.

Albertson and Brown came to the college in 1967. Initially, Albertson worked in the office of the president. Since then, she worked in the dean's office, the admission office, and finally, the library, where she has been since 1970.

Brown, now associate professor of biology, was hired to teach biology and chemistry. In 1992, he received the President's Award for Teaching Excellence and has served as faculty athletics representative for many years.

Honored for 15 years of service and receiving pewter coffee cups were: Ms. Brenda B. Cates, assistant professor of mathematics; Ms. Vicky B. Cotton, director of financial aid; Mr. John W. Taylor, assistant maintenance supervisor, and Mrs. Tharen R. Taylor, bookstore manager.

Thanked for 10 years of service and presented engraved executive paper weights were: Ms. Olivia R. Best, secretary for planned giving; Dr. Richard R. Bounds, professor of biology; Ms. Katherine B. Gardner, administrative assistant for admissions; Mr. Anthony E. Hatcher, assistant professor of English; Mr. Larry D. Lean, professor of fine arts, and Mrs. Dorothy C. Whitley, dean of academic support.

Acknowledged for five years of service to the college and presented with Jefferson cups were: Ms. Diane H. Graham, financial aid counselor; Mr. David Ingram, food service staff member; Ms. Anna G. Wooten, food service staff member, and Mr. Thomas E. Herbert, vice president of finance.

Dr. Byrd noted that he, also, was celebrating his fifth anniversary as a college employee.

Also participating in the Founder's Day service were: the Mount Olive College Concert Choir; the Rev. Ray Wells, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist; Mrs. Dianne B. Riley, director of alumni relations; Mr. Bradford R. Williamson, president of the student's theological fellowship, and Mr. Mark Gourley, organist.

Following the service and lunch, the board of trustees met in the Hennessee Room of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center.

Dinners Very Successful

The 1997 Mount Olive College dinner campaign closed out with the best report in the history of the dinners which began in 1963. Free Will Baptists contributed \$372,419 in gifts and pledges at the 17 county-wide dinners. This amount exceeded the goal of \$365,000 by \$12,419.

"The enthusiasm and interest for the work of the College has been exceptional this year," said Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support and coordinator of the dinners. "The unrestricted funds generated at these dinners help provide not only general scholarship, but also funds for the Free Will Baptist Tuition grant that Free Will Baptist students receive."

Approximately 3,000 people attended this year's dinners and over 400 volunteers worked with Mrs. Ackiss. "Our volunteers provide valuable teamwork in the successful completion of the dinners each year. They help people understand the importance of Christian higher education in our society and serve as liaisons between the Church and the College. They are exceedingly important," Mrs. Ackiss emphasized. "Volunteers help to make this work even more fulfilling and meaningful. We are most grateful for each person who gave of their time and effort."

Below is a chart showing a report on each county dinner.

CHURCH DINNER PROGRAM 1997

County Dinner	1996 Actual \$	1996 Bridge Builders	1997 Goal \$	1997 Actual \$	1997 Bridge Builders
Beaufort	12,106	61	12,525	13,052	58
Carteret	14,543	76	15,600	14,366	67
Craven	16,840	79	18,225	19,500	83
Duplin	13,580	58	13,775	15,425	66
Edgecombe	5,915	40	6,050	6,875	46
Greene	24,196	116	24,250	25,090	130
Johnston-Wake	44,321	182	47,300	47,109	206
Jones	4,825	20	5,000	5,275	23
Lenoir	21,218	110	22,300	19,671	109
Nash	9,582	37	10,100	10,825	46
Onslow-Brunswick	3,570	16	3,600	4,104	19
Pamlico	7,891	43	8,550	9,170	48
Pitt	30,308	146	32,400	32,210	149
Sampson, Harnett & Cumberland	35,267	182	35,825	37,933	189
Washington, Martin Tyrrell, & Pasquotank	14,095	57	14,300	18,088	59
Wayne	58,463	195	57,650	57,854	207
Wilson	35,475	181	37,550	35,872	193
Total	352,195	1,599	365,000	372,419	1698

Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 10	8:00 AM, FWB State Youth Board Meeting, Murphy Regional Center
Monday, January 12	9:15 AM, Visitation Day, College Hall
Tuesday, January 13	8:00 AM, Spring Term Begins, Mount Olive Campus
Saturday, January 24	5:30 PM & 7:30 PM, Church Basketball Night, MOC vs. Coker College, College Hall.

Visitation Day Set For Monday, January 19

High school juniors and seniors who are interested in attending Mount Olive College in the Fall 1998 term, and those who are interested in learning more about the College, are invited to attend Campus Visitation Day on Monday, January 19.

Registration begins at 9:15 AM in College Hall and the program begins at 10:00 AM. Students and parents are welcome.

The program provides information about academics in college, student life, the admissions process, financial aid options and procedures. Students will also have an opportunity to tour the campus, talk with coaches, audition for music scholarships, and visit the campus bookstore.

Interested students or parents are asked to contact the Admissions Office at 919-658-7164 or 800-653-0854.

Church Night at MOC

The 15th Annual Basketball Free Will Baptist Church Night at Mount Olive College is Saturday, January 24.

The Lady Trojans take on Coker College at 5:30 PM in College Hall. The Trojan's men's team plays Coker at 7:30 PM.

Special recognition is given to the church with the largest attendance. Also, there are two contests for three age groups: free throws from the foul line and shooting from the 3-point line. Designate your "best shooters" for grades K-8, grades 9-12, and out-of-high school (any age — even pastors!).

Special tickets are \$1.00. Call the Admissions Office at 919-658-7164 or 800-653-0854. Hope to see you there!

Homecoming Was A Huge Success

More than 300 alumni returned to their alma mater at one time or another during Homecoming Weekend, November 21-23.

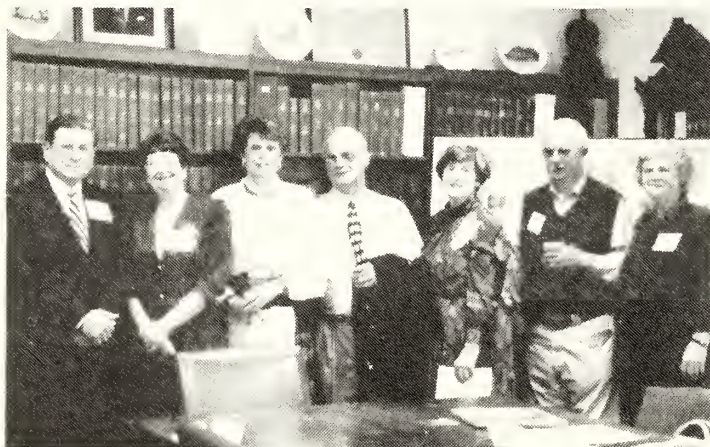
"It truly was a Five-Star Weekend," said Mrs. Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations. "Thank you so very much to everyone who came, and a special thank you goes out to the many, many people who worked very hard to make the weekend such a success."

Highlights included: more than 60 alumni participated in the golf tournament with PGA pros Clarence Rose and Neal Lancaster; reunions took place in every corner of the campus; a distinguished alumnus was honored; alumni officers were installed; the governor's proclamation was read and presented; ground was broken for the Alumni Cross Walk; a Pickle Classic king and queen were crowned, and our very own Trojan basketball team won the 32nd Annual Pickle Classic Basketball Tournament.

"The response of so many loyal alumni was heartwarming to see," said Dr. J. William Byrd, president. "Alumni are part of the College for the rest of their lives. We want this relationship to be mutually satisfying. From what I saw during homecoming weekend, it is just that."



Keenan Hinnant, MOC 1997, enjoyed the alumni golf tournament with PGA Pro Neal Lancaster, MOC 1982, and Kenny Moore, MOC 1983.



MOC Class of 1957: (L to R) Dr. W. Burkette Raper, Myra Webster from Frankfurt, Delaware; Hilda Boykin Watkins from Raleigh; Eugene Tyson from Waynesville, NC; Genevieve McLamb Taylor from Snow Hill; and Allen and Deanye Overman from Gainesville, Florida.



Homecoming Weekend concluded with a worship service led by Michelle Taylor, MOC 1991, and speaker Marvin Waters, MOC 1973.

Attention Treasurers, Finance Committees and Pastors

Regardless of the work that a person chooses to do an essential element that is critical to any job is the right tool. Whether you are a mechanic fixing a car, a farmer in the field, a surgeon, scientist, or attorney, the right tool, reference information or instrument is critical in how well we are able to do our work.

While we don't often think of a treasurer or finance committee member as a worker in need of tools, just the opposite is true. Quality records, reference material and up to date information is necessary for these individuals to do the best with the task assigned them by the church.

For many years the Free Will Baptist Minister's Program has committed itself to keeping our churches and ministers informed in the area of compensation, taxes, and other matters relating to financial planning.

In an effort to assist your church the Minister's Program will sponsor a seminar during the month of January at three locations throughout the Convention to help church treasurers, finance committee members and pastors do their job more effectively and efficiently. These locations will be announced and the meeting will be held during the evening for your convenience.

A representative from Page and Smith, CPA's, PA will be on hand to help with basics such as tax ID numbers, budget planning, cash control and audit reviews as well as printed material to help you as you serve the local church. Best of all this is a free program, including the printed material, to all who register.

This is not our annual Minister's Tax Seminar but rather it is a special program designed to help those who serve our churches. Be on the lookout for a mailing to your church and take this time to fill out the registration form and return it in the envelope provided. If you have not received a notice by January, please call me at 919-523-5800 during the day or at night 919-522-2545.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Free Will Baptist Minister's Program
Donald Fader, Director

1998 Summer Camp Schedule

Morning Star

April 10-12, 1998

Teresa Ball, 919-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530

June Women's Auxiliary Conference

June 8-13, 1998

Teresa Ball, 919-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530

Minister's Conference

June 15-18, 1998

Philip Boykin, 919-892-8360

55 Lee's Chapel Church Road, Dunn, NC 28334

Christian Cadet Conference

June 22-27, 1998

Gary Bailey, 919-735-3916

112 Crosswinds Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27530

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 29 - July 4, 1998

Scott and Janie Sowers, 919-321-7542

PO Box 639, Bell Arthur, NC 27811

Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

July 6-11, 1998

Frankie Baggett, 919-746-7850

5403 Weyerhaeuser Road, Ayden, NC 28513

General Youth II Conference

July 13-18, 1998

Chris Singleton, 910-298-3520

PO Box 162, Beulaville, NC 28518

General Youth I Conference

July 20-25, 1998

Bryant Hines, 919-683-3436

PO Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523

Young People's Bible Conference

July 27-August 1, 1998

James Gurganus, 919-223-5251

1317 Nine Foot Road, Newport, NC 28570

August Women's Auxiliary Conference

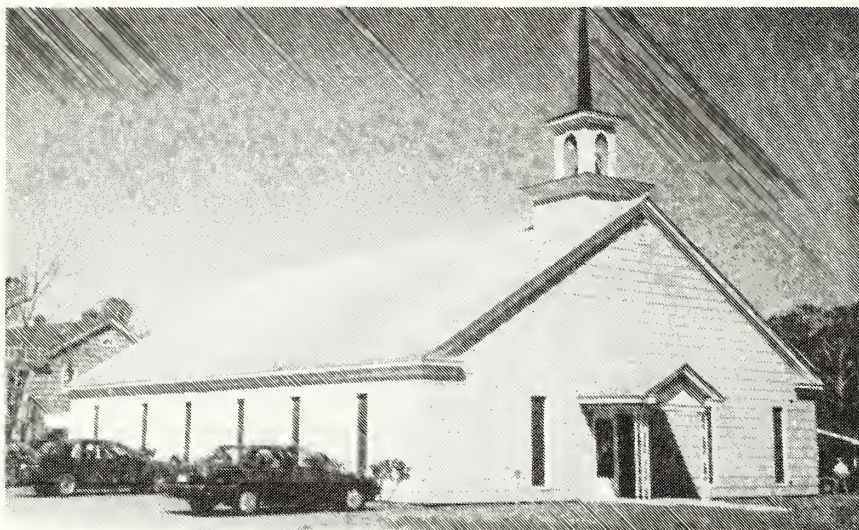
August 3-8, 1998

Teresa Ball, 919-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530

Harvest Covenant

A NEW CHURCH GROWTH PROGRAM



Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Morehead City, NC

The Harvest Covenant Program has been created to offer any congregation help in finding ways to become the church Christ would have it become, to enable it to once again "Magnify the Name of the Lord."

With the Harvest Covenant Program your church can move from a declining situation to a growing functioning congregation as your people:

DISCOVER	the true mission of the church
DEVELOP	outreach ministries
REVERSE	the declining situation
DRAW	closer to each other and to the Lord
GAIN	lifelong experiences
UNDERSTAND	why we serve
LEARN	about discipleship

One of the main emphasis in the Harvest Covenant Program is the Harvest Survey. The survey is always done within the community

the church is serving. To date three churches have successfully completed the Harvest Survey with a return of new attendees, resulting in new converts, more visibility and a new awareness that the church does care. The Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church of Morehead City, North Carolina, signed the Harvest Covenant Program with Home Missions in August of 1996. Since that time the attendance has gone from twelve to about thirty. Under the leadership of the Pastor, the Rev. James Gurganus, and the assistance of the Harvest Covenant Program under the direction of the Rev. Al Markuson, six have been received by letter and three new converts.

Five more churches are in the process of having the Harvest Survey with several others looking at the possibility. Should your church be interested in "Expanding His Kingdom" within your community, contact your Home Missions and Evangelism office, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or call the Headquarters (919) 746-4963.

REMEMBER

No church has to stay in a declining state, waiting to disappear. With faith, commitment and hard work, any church can become the church Christ called it to be. Let Us Help!



The Rev. James Gurganus and his wife, Dean.

Opportunities and Activities...

For Touching Lives for A Lifetime are available through Home Missions and Evangelism.

Through this ministry Original Free Will Baptists can "give back to America" while Expanding His Kingdom. Remember to participate during the month of April, designated by our Convention as Home Missions and Evangelism Month. Saturday, April 25, 1998, the Harvest Helpers Prayer Retreat will be held; and Sunday, April 26, 1998, is Home Missions and Evangelism Sunday. For more information contact the Home Missions and Evangelism office, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or phone (919) 746-4963.



CHURCH FINANCE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP HOLDERS TO BE HELD

February 10, 1998

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Church Finance Association, Inc. will be held as follows:

Place: Beulaville Free Will Baptist Church
Beulaville, North Carolina

Date: February 10, 1998

Time: 10:30 AM

The purpose of this meeting is:

- 1) To review the financial condition of the Association and to act on the financial report.
- 2) The election of one (1) member of the Board of Directors to hold office for a term of five years.
- 3) The transaction of any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

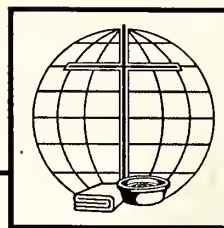
By Order of the Board of Directors,
William D. Thigpen, Secretary.

FWB PRESS

A Special Thanks

The Bible and Bookstores of the Free Will Baptist Press would like to express sincere thanks to all those who made our Annual Christmas Open House such a huge success!

Happy New Year from the staff of the Bible and Bookstores of Ayden, Kinston, Wilson, and New Bern.



Lanier Chapel Homecoming Highlighted by Memorial Service

submitted by Mabel Lanier, Special Correspondent, *Wallace Enterprise*.

A very enjoyable day was in store for those who attended Lanier's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church Homecoming Day 1997. Approximately 110 attended the Worship and Memorial Services, and the feast afterwards.

Audrey English welcomed the visitors and presented them with a bulletin. The services began with the call to worship by the choir as they sang "I'm Feeling Fine." After the children's sermon, an inspiring memorial service was led by Ann Lee English as she reminisced about each who had been taken from the church family since last October.

The community candle was lit by the Rev. Andrew Hill. Those remembered with this candle were: Martha Denny Lanier (June 10), Louise Jones Lanier (June 14), Nara C. Sanderson (August 17), Orbit Cavanaugh (September 27) and Amie Lou Parker Pickett (September 28).

A candle was then lit by a member of each family in remembrance of church members who have passed away. The candle for Alice Lanier Batts (November 3, 1996) was lit by her brother, Leonard Lanier. Earnie Batchelor Sieloff (February 21) candle lit by Jeff Stroud, grandson. Edna Kate Padrick Lanier (February 22) candle lit by Jill Bostic Miller, granddaughter. Bertha Williams Lanier (March 18) candle lit by Dustin Mobley, great-grandson. Ruth Edwards Lanier (April 20), Auxiliary member, candle lit by Kim Pickett Jones. Pam Lanier Mercer (July 22) candle lit by Russel Lanier, father. Amos Harrison Lanier (September 18) candle lit by Corey Lanier, grandson. The church choir ended this portion of the memorial services with the old favorite, "Touring That City."

A week of fellowship came to a close at Lanier's Chapel on Friday, the last

night of revival. Each night those in attendance enjoyed the inspirational songs of the choir and visitors, and the uplifting evening messages by the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, pastor of Westside Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston.

~ • ~ • ~

Other news at Lanier's Chapel: we are so excited! It won't be long before the youth in our church can use the new Sunday school rooms. The date will be announced for the dedication soon.

Lanier's Chapel Sunday school was organized in 1942 by Leonard Lanier. Verbal agreement was "they tried to organize years earlier, but due to lack of participation, it was an off and on project until 1942." At that time Alice Batts was voted Secretary and Treasurer, and Edna Kate Lanier, the first teacher (they were listed in our Memorial Services.)

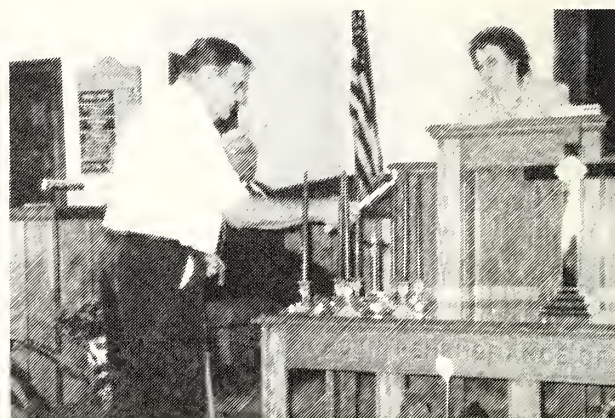
~ • ~ • ~

Another charter member, Mary Lee Lanier, our oldest active church member, celebrated her 87th birthday on Saturday before Homecoming Day at her home, with her family. On Homecoming

Day she was at her church, celebrating this day with her church family, and was able to attend all the services throughout the week with her enthusiastic spirit that we love.

~ • ~ • ~

Other charter members, who, by the grace of God, were able to attend were: Leonard Lanier (and wife Estelle), Julia Grace Pickett and Glendora Lanier. Ray Lanier was able to attend the Homecoming Services. Charter members who were not able to attend and always missed by all were Coleen Lanier and Margaret Mobley.



Deacon Leonard Lanier lights a candle in memory of his sister, Alice Batts, during the Homecoming Memorial service at Lanier's Chapel. Lanier is the organizer and also a charter member of the Sunday school at the church.

Correction, Please!

The December issue of *The Free Will Baptist* quoted the price of the 1998 *Devotion* at \$4.50 per copy. The correct price is \$4.75. Please note this in placing your orders.

We regret the inconvenience this may have caused anyone.

Order from
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PO Box 159 • 811 North Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513-0159

Pastor Honored submitted by Lib Boyd

October 26, 1997, was a special day for Black Jack Original Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, NC, and our Pastor, the Rev. Calvin Heath. It was "Pastor Appreciation Day." As special guests, his mother, Mrs. Lillian Heath and his sister Mrs. Rebecca Hill and her family were present. Also, his son, J.C., was home for the weekend from Campbell College and his other sons, Joshua and Jason, were also present.

When Brother Calvin came to the podium, he welcomed everyone, especially our visitors, as he usually does and he especially welcomed his mother and sister and her family. He was a little surprised to see them, but he was to learn later why they had come. Before he started his sermon, he told us that our Associate Pastor, the Rev. David Pooser had asked to have a few minutes at the close of the service. Brother Calvin then delivered a very inspiring message. His text was Romans 8:22-23. His topic was "Contrast" —contrast of sin and of eternal life — a great lesson and message for us all. After his closing prayer, he turned the service over to David, not knowing what was about to happen. When David got to the podium, he asked Brother Calvin if he would come and stand with him. He then asked "Miss Debbie," the pastor's wife, if she would join them. David then told Brother Calvin something was about to happen to him that he knew nothing about. David said, "Today is 'Pastor Appreciation Day' and we are very happy to honor you today as our Pastor." David told him that he was glad to have a part in this special occasion.

David then introduced Tammy Hudson for the presentation and the program to follow. Tammy, speaking for every member of the church, expressed her love and appreciation for Pastor Calvin and the things that he does for the church and his church family. She pointed out things that are often taken for granted and other things that we do not even see, such as turning the lights on and off, and the air-conditioning or heat as needed, visitations that he does, time spent studying and preparing for his sermons and Wednesday night Bible study, for being on call 24 hours a day and just being there when he is called, with an ear to listen and help.

It was with everyone's love and appreciation that Tammy was presenting him with a big basket of appreciation cards and love offerings given by the congregation of the church. She also presented Miss Debbie a gift from everyone with love and appreciation for her part in his ministry and her commitment and dedication to the church.

Tammy then introduced the following people: Matt Wilkerson representing the youth, expressed love and appreciation for their pastor and his support and help in the youth programs. Then Matt turned and told Pastor

Calvin what he meant to him personally and thank him for baptizing him. Suzanne Dixon (standing in for Louie Dixon who was sick at home) representing the young adults, expressed their love and appreciation for him and his support for the young adults and for letting them have a part in the church activities. Sally Vainright, speaking for the older people of the church, expressed their love and appreciation for him and for his concern, love and compassion for all, no matter when he is called or for what reason. He is always there and willing to help in any way possible. Suzanne Dixon also representing the Circle of Faith, presented Miss Debbie with a gift certificate expressing their love and appreciation for her. Also, representing the Men's Fellowship, Danny Hudson thanked our Pastor for his part in and support of the Men's Fellowship. They presented him with a new pair of shoes in appreciation.

Tammy then read the following poem that was written by Mrs. Hazel Edwards that said what was in everyone's heart:

Calvin and Debbie, you are quite a pair.
Truly gems that are extremely rare.
Preaching the sermons, counseling, visiting the sick,
too
Are just a few of the things you do.
We appreciate you being our leader and our friend
And hope our friendship never ends.
God knows what He's doing; it was meant to be.
J.C., Joshua, Jason, you are all part of our family.
Although we don't always express what we feel each
day,
We love you and thank you for coming our way.

The Rev. Calvin was very overwhelmed, but through tears of joy and thankfulness he did manage to say, "I can't tell you what this means to me. I thank you and I love you all." Then Brother Calvin's mother came to the podium. She thanked the church for its support for Calvin and his family especially through prayers and encouragement that she knew he had needed many times. She was thankful that he was in a church where she knew he wanted to be and was happy here. She told Calvin and Debbie that the flowers were given in their honor in love and appreciation for them and their family.

We were dismissed with prayer by Brother Benjie Forrest.

Brother Calvin, we your church family do love and appreciate you. We are blessed and thankful to have you as our pastor and we are happy to honor you on this "Pastor Appreciation Day" October 26, 1997.

Moses Preached from the Mountain... the Rev. Owen Arthur Preached from the Roof

— by Ann Marie Crisp

On November 9, 1997, the Rev. Owen Arthur, pastor of Memorial Free Will Baptist Church, preached the Sunday morning message from the roof, complete with bib overalls and bow tie. It was difficult to tell who was more excited, the adults or children!

The Rev. Arthur had challenged the congregation to "fill the church" for Homecoming. He indicated that he would preach from the roof if the goal was met.

The congregation kept its part of the bargain, and he kept his.

Although weather and other circumstances delayed his climb, his promise was ultimately fulfilled.

During his message, he told the story of a young orphan boy who found food, shelter, clean clothes, and warm bed by using the password John 3:16.

Since August, we have seen several others use this password. Seven young people have been baptized and a total of nine individuals have joined our church.

The Lord has truly blessed us and we trust that the new year will bring even more blessings.



A Special Thanks

Many thanks to all of the Woman's Auxiliaries, Sunday school classes, and wonderful friends that have stood by me through the years, for the blessings you brought me this Christmas, and throughout the entire year.

When you reach eighty one and are alone, it means so very much to hear from you. I am not in good health so I ask you to remember me when you pray. May God bless everyone of you real good is my prayer.

Love and Prayers, Rose G. Bowen

Convention Executive Committee Begins Process

The Executive Committee has regretfully accepted the resignation of the Rev. Scott Sowers as Executive Administrator of the Convention. His resignation became effective October 21, 1997. Due to the resignation the Convention Executive Committee has appointed a Search Committee to begin seeking a successor. The Search Committee consists of the Revs. Leon Grubbs, (chairman), Jackie Godwin, Harold Swinson.

The Search Committee will begin immediately to receive resumes from those persons that may wish to be considered for this position. The committee will receive resumes through April 15, 1998.

Please send your resume to: Rev. Leon Grubbs, Route 2, Box 290, Snow Hill, NC 28580.

All resumes will be kept confidential and the final decision will be made by the Executive Committee of the Convention. Please be much in prayer for the Search Committee and the Executive Committee and the decisions they will be making in the coming months.

Fall Festival

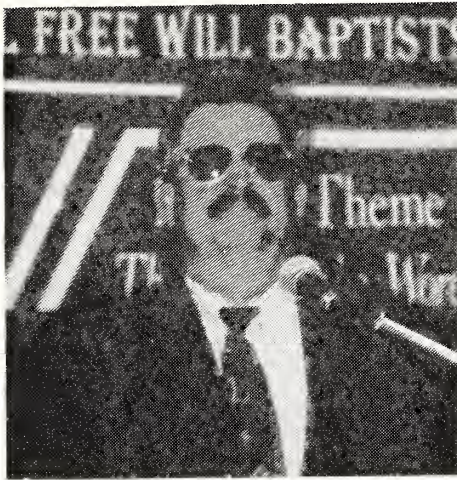
On October 31, 1997, Stoney Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church, Middlesex, NC, held its Fall Festival. The Fall Festival is a time that the children can celebrate without celebrating Halloween. The children dress in costumes, play games, and eat all the candy they want. There were plenty of activities for the children. Not only were there many different games that they could play, but there were arts and crafts for them to do. The adults seemed to have as much fun as the children.



Pastor Needed

Russell's Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, NC is seeking a bivocational pastor. Any interested minister may contact the Pulpit Committee at PO Box 1, Beaufort, NC 28516 or phone 919-728-3087 ask for Mrs. Leona Ingram.

Night of Evangelism



The Rev. Walt Tyndall

Preceding the regular sessions of the Annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptists each year is the Night of Evangelism which is held on Tuesday evening. It was held on September 16, 1997, under the direction of the Convention's Executive Committee.

Previous to the beginning of the service, the Second Edition Quartet presented special music and also sang during the Worship Service. Directing the singing was Charles Entzminger. The pianist was the Rev. Everette Harper.

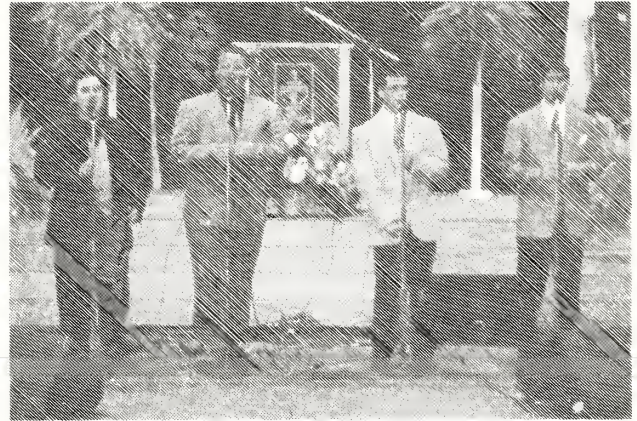
The speaker for the service was the Rev. Walt Tyndall, pastor of Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg, NC. He was introduced by the Rev. Ray Wells, president of the Convention. Mr. Tyndall's message was, "The Five Senses of Soul Winning." His text was Romans 10:13-17.

In his introduction, Pastor Tyndall stated: "I firmly believe the greatest privilege and responsibility we have as Christian people is to witness to the lost about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He told all of us in Mark 16:15 to "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," I believe that means every Christian has that responsibility to the gospel to everyone in the world around them..."

The five "senses" stressed by the speaker were:

1. A "sense" of understanding.
2. A "sense" of responsibility.
3. A "sense" of power.
4. A "sense" of urgency.
5. A "sense" of burden.

Each of these focused on factors that are necessary in fulfilling Christ's command to be His witness. The Rev. Tyndall very capably ended his



The Second Edition

message by saying:

"Let me close with this illustration:

"If we had the cure for the worse disease in the world, a cure for a dreadful disease, would we hold it and keep it to ourselves? We consider that to be immoral and cruel if someone did that. Yet that is what a lot of Christians are doing. We hold the cure for the sin of the world — salvation through Jesus Christ — the gospel message... It's time to take the cure to the world. Are you ready to witness to the Lord? Are you ready to take the gospel to the World?"

Receptionist-Secretary is Employed

Mrs. Wendy Evans has been employed as the Convention receptionist-secretary. Among her duties, she is responsible for answering your telephone calls to the Headquarters. Mrs. Evans is a member of Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC. She began her duties on December 1, 1997.

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THE CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP

THE DANGERS OF PROVINCIALISM

by Dr. K. Alan Lamm

Periodically we will feature an article from Dr. De Wayne Eakes' book *The Crisis of Leadership*. The book is available at the bookstores in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson.

The point of this essay is to caution against provincialism, a recurring danger that has plagued Christ's Church since the very beginning. An historical example will be cited first as an illustration before the focus turns toward our situation in the Original Free Will Baptist Church today.

Despite the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), despite Jesus' words at his ascension (Acts 1:8), the early Christians, though faithful in witnessing to their immediate neighbors, were reluctant to see beyond the small world of Jerusalem. Indeed, a study of the Book of Acts reveals that the Early Church leaders were quite content to remain at home in the city testifying to their fellow townspeople, until only the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 6-8:4) and attendant persecution forced them out of Jerusalem and into the surrounding areas. It was not until the persecution by Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12) that they finally ventured out from Judea and Samaria into the large Greco-Roman world, and even then only somewhat hesitantly.

While the persecutions pushed them out of their provincialism, there was another factor that pulled them along as well — the powerful spirit-led ministry of the Apostle Paul. Yet even his best efforts did not go unchallenged, for many felt that top priority should be given first to converting the local Jews to Christianity. The Gentiles, if they were to be converted at all, had to become Jews first.

Peter's vision and subsequent defense for baptizing Gentiles certainly aided Paul's case tremendously (Act 10, 11), but it was not until the Apostolic Council met in Jerusalem that a final verdict was reached (Acts 15:1-35) and Paul and Barnabas were at last given the full blessing of the apostles to reach out to the entire world thus leading to the Second Missionary Journey.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Paul understood well the words of God given to His prophet Isaiah, "I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, that you (Israel) may bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6). Indeed, Paul even quoted this

verse in order to make his point (Acts 13:47) and with this ended a threat of provincialism. Therefore, thanks to the Lord's working through the Apostle Paul, Christianity was transformed from a small eschatological sect within Judaism, to a world-wide religion embracing all nations, all people.

Today we face the same leadership challenge in our own denomination, namely: Shall we be content to concentrate all of our efforts here at home (in our case eastern North Carolina), or do we need to reach out to the large world out there with a message of Christ crucified? The answer, that we must reach out beyond our little Judea, seems obvious. But is this what we are doing? Or has the disease of provincialism infected us?

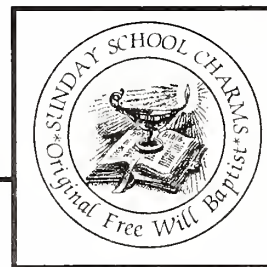
Certainly we are doing many things right. For instance, Mount Olive College has made several notable contributions: providing Spanish classes in local communities so that our churches can reach out to migrant workers; recruiting out-of-state and foreign students and professors in order to create a more diverse college; gaining full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, developing the MOC Press which will carry books and authors beyond provincial boundaries, and so on.

There are other examples too. The courageous decision to accept children of all races into the Children's Home is one. The work of the Home and Foreign Mission Board is self-evident by the efforts here to reach out to the lost.

Our chaplaincy program is another for through it our chaplains work side by side with all races, creeds, and colors. And, the fraternal delegates we receive at our Convention from the General Baptists, etc., is also praiseworthy.

We live in an interconnected world that binds our community with the rest of the country and planet via politics, economics, the environment — and as Christians have always known, spiritually as well. Indeed, it is an inescapable fact that events in one part of the globe affect us all. My hope is that we will not be content with our ministry here at home only like so many in the Early Church, but rather that we look harder

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



Tips for beginning a new year in Sunday School:

- Maintain beliefs in the eternal standards and values in the Scriptures.
- Retain or regain your commitment to God.
- Review the Original Free Will Baptist Doctrine.
- Keep a positive attitude.
- Expect great, but realistic, things to happen.
- Spend time looking at what you have rather than what you didn't have.
- Maintain a sense of humor.
- Take time to think.
- Inspire rather than impress.
- Let change be your ally rather than your enemy.
- Before you criticize, be ready to provide an alternative.
- Learn from the past; be ready to learn from and adapt to the present.
- Sunday School workers should be Faithful, Available and Trainable.



For information or assistance with your Sunday School, contact:

*Mary M. Dudley
1770 Will Cunningham Road
Deep Run, NC 28525
Telephone: 919-568-3311*

The Dangers of Provincialism Cont...

for ways to reach out beyond just eastern North Carolina. Eastern North Carolina is a wonderful place (just as first century Judea was), but we are called to minister to the **whole** world. After all, that's what the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) is all about. If we remember Christ's challenge to us, provincialism will never be a threat to our leadership or denomination.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Dr. K. Alan Lamm

Born: March 1, 1959

Married: Laura Lee Lamm

Children: Anderson Lee Lamm

Education: A.S. Mount Olive College; B.A. University of North Carolina — Greensboro; M.Div. Duke University; Th.M. Duke University. Currently working on PhD at University of SC Army Education: Chaplain Officer Basic Course at Fort Monmouth in August 1990.

Denominational Service: Served on Chaplain's Commission; Credentials Committee for Convention of OFWB; Chaplain in Army Reserve for Denomination; Pastor First Free Will Baptist Church in Smithfield (5 yrs)

Ordained: September 1984

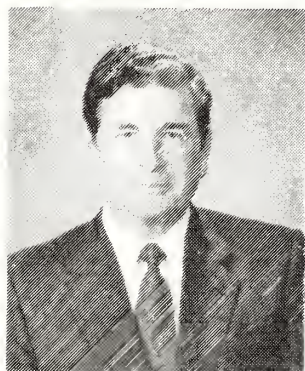


Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

THERE IS HOPE FOR YOUR FUTURE

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"The noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands," (Isaiah 32:8, NIV).



Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus
Mount Olive College

The gift of a new year is an opportunity for senior citizens to ask: "What do I want to accomplish in the time I have left?"

With the passing of each year, time becomes more and more precious. Those of us who have reached the age which makes us senior citizens have already lived longer than most people in the history of the world. Whatever we plan to do today, we should make sure that it is important, because we will be exchanging a day of our life for it.

We all recognize that value of young people having a plan for their lives, but it is even more important that senior citizens have a plan. Without a plan, our lives will simply be absorbed in the daily routine of caring for our bodies and responding to what comes at us in our work, by the telephone, through the mail, by the requests of friends and the demands of family. Some of these activities are essential and some are beyond our control, and unless we take steps to prevent it, our lives will become what is imposed upon us with no room left for what we choose.

The Noble Man Makes Noble Plans

The quality, joy and meaning of our lives will never be better than they are now unless we establish a plan for change. Whatever is undesirable will remain as it is — or probably become worse — unless we take it into our hands to make things different.

There are some situations, including health problems and family responsibilities, which are now fixed and beyond our capacity to change. We can attain freedom, however, not by being in control of everything but by trusting God who is in control.

In the dark experiences of life, the destination of faith is to bring us to the point where we realize that all we really have is God; and then faith carries us one step further — to where we realize that God is all we need. When the Prophet Jeremiah wrote, "So there is hope for your future," he was writing to people who

were in exile, suffering under cruel oppression, (Jeremiah 31:17, NIV).

The journey of faith can be painful and sometimes lonely, but it is the only route to freedom. It is through freedom from what could destroy us that God gives us the margin of choice wherein we can make our lives better — if we will. Unless we senior citizens know what we want to accomplish in the time that remains and make decisive plans to achieve our goals, we will never be free from the routines of life which stand ready to absorb us.

Noble Deeds By Which We Stand

Regardless of how noble our plans, they are but empty dreams unless they become deeds. The Book of 1 Kings relates how two kings built ships at a seaport called Ezion Geber, a tributary to the Red Sea from which they could sail to Ophir, a place known for its vast resources of gold.

The ships built by King Solomon brought back tons of gold which made Solomon the richest king of his time, (1 King 9:26–28); the ships built years later by King Jehoshaphat, however, never set sail, (1 King 22:48–49). A ship stuck in a harbor is like a plan that never becomes a deed.

In His creative process, God has deposited great wealth in the earth — not only gold but diamonds and other precious stones. Far greater than this wealth, however, is the potential with which He has endowed our lives. Our senior years are a wonderful opportunity to experience the maturity and fulfillment God has ordained for His children.

No people in history have had better opportunities to experience the good life than the senior citizens of America today. We will be remembered, however, not by what we do for ourselves but by what we do for others.

There is hope for our future if we know what we would like to accomplish in the time we have left. "The noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands."



Dr. Pepper Worthington

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Donald K. Berry. *An Introduction to Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Hollman, 1995.

Introduction

How can Ecclesiastes be a book of wisdom literature? After all, the author of Ecclesiastes called Qoheleth or "teacher" tells us that life is empty, vain, even meaningless. What is wise about such skepticism?

Three Crisis of Meaning

Qoheleth reveals three crisis of meaning: (1) an ignorance of the ultimate; (2) a sense of life's injustice; (3) a lack of gain for doing good.

Ignorance of God's power and of the ultimate meaning of time lead to a crisis of meaning. If a person cannot know, what is left? Acceptance? Qoheleth also felt the injustice of oppression in the world. All life leads to death. Likewise, Qoheleth felt the lack of gain in living life. If nothing good "comes from person's attempts to better themselves, how can humans consider any activity meaningful?" (163)

Qoheleth's Findings

Suppose we strip life of all the vanities, poses, and inconsistencies. What is left? What becomes *the essential*? Qoheleth affirms the religious impulse, the enjoyment of food, the value of a good name, the necessity of sorrow, the joy of work.

Fear of the Lord

If the "fear of the Lord" (166) is the point where wisdom begins, what does this mean? To fear God is to respect God. To fear God is to submit to the mysteries to God.

What does Qoheleth recommend? He recommends that we all focus upon the essential, that we use three of life's goods, namely, "religion, intellect, and work" (168). Meaningfulness can only emerge through use of these three priorities.

First-Person Perspective

According to Dr. Berry, "Ecclesiastes assumes the form of the report of a sage's experience" (169). What does the first person narrative do for us? Such a formate "encourages the reader to see the entire work as the quest of a single sage" (169).

Though the first-person perspective lacks a certain order, the "disorder appears consistent with the disorientation of the thinker" (169). The dual themes of doubt and faith reflect the struggle of the single sage.

Conclusion

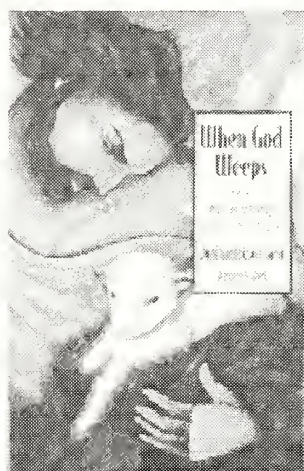
Is our highest goal a search of happiness? If so, what does Ecclesiastes remind us? The first-person voice reminds us of the look into the void, the state of nonbeing about which Paul Tillich wrote. As we confront the nothingness of our own existence, we are forced to relate to God and to reality on a different dimension.

What dimension? The dimension of a relationship and commitment to God allows the quest through nonbeing to occur so that being *happens* in relationship.

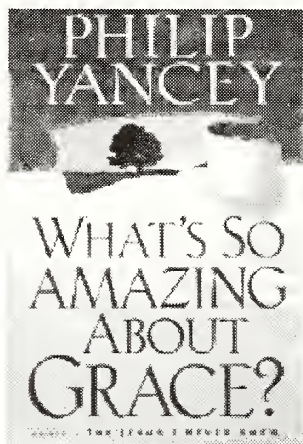
Ecclesiastes reminds us: "In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider; God has made the one as well as the other, so that mortals may not find out anything that will come after them" (Ecclesiastes 7:14).

An Introduction to Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON

5/22/06



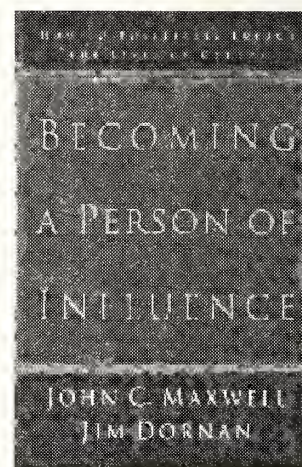
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February 1998

The Free Will Baptist



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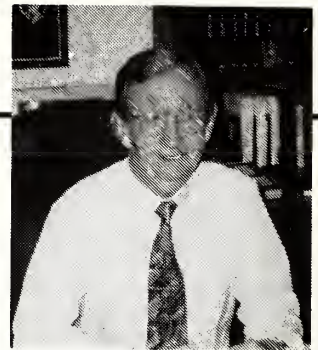
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*Put the Spirits
on Trial*
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*Are All Things
Possible?*
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*The Call to
the Word*
.....

*My Tears Have
Led Me Here*
.....

*1998 World Day
of Prayer*



C. H. Overman

The Eternal Effects of Love

Each February 14 we observe Valentine's Day. By the time the Christmas decorations are removed from the stores, up goes the Valentine displays and decorations, including cards, heartshaped boxes of candy, and various gifts. On this special day we express our love with cards and gifts to sweethearts, friends, and members of our families. Indeed, it is a special day; however, the expressions of love are not limited to this one day. In many ways our love is expressed daily in many ways. It is more than saying, "I love you;" our love must be shown in deeds and actions toward those close to us.

Greater than this category of love is Christian love — the love that began with God (John 3:16), was totally manifested in His Son, Jesus Christ, and became the badge of the Christian: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another" (John 13:34-35).

Interwoven in the pages of His Word is the eternal theme of love. It encompasses the entire scope of God's divine love, coupled with humankind's feeble and sometimes failing efforts to reach it.

It is a common consensus among those who love God's Word that 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, truly qualifies as the greatest love chapter of the Bible. In writing it, Paul was explaining that Christian service (ministry gifts) are regulated by love. Paul's inspired words truly express "the eternal effects of love."

1 Corinthians, Chapter 13

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

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NEXT MONTH

*March is
Foreign Missions
Month*

*February is
Sunday School and
Christian Education
Month*



Put The Spirits On Trial

by Ken Riggs

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world (1 John 4:1) KJV.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1) NAS.

Don't trust every spirit, dear friends of mine, but test them to discover whether they come from God or not. For the world is full of false prophets (1 John 4:1) J. B. Phillips.

For a long time I have been concerned about what is happening in the religious world. I scan the TV channels and see things that are almost unbelievable. Actually, I have mixed emotions about what I see. On one hand, I'm glad to hear the story of Jesus Christ being told; I'm delighted to hear music that uplifts Christ; I'm glad that at least some channels do not constantly portray sex, violence and profanity.

On the other hand, it's often these same things that bring me concern. Is the true story of Jesus really being told? Is the music uplifting Christ or the performers? I marvel at the size of many of the congregations; I marvel at the liberty and freedom often displayed.

There's a part of me that says, "What's wrong with this? Why am I worried about it? Why should I be concerned?" I guess I'm concerned because I'm a pastor. As a pastor, I feel strongly the obligation to teach truth and expose error. No, I am not jealous about the size of others' congregations. I am not jealous about the ministries others have.

The things I'm concerned about are these: the mass healings, the hysterical outbursts in both laughter and other bizarre behavior, the "falling backward" by those who seemingly are being "slain in the spirit" and the speaking in tongues.

I frankly do not know if ministries that promote the above things are valid or not. It's

for that purpose that I have chosen to not deal with personalities or specific programs, but to point out Biblical principles that I think are beneficial in seeking to take John's admonition to "test the spirits."

Four basic Bible truths and principles help me evaluate the program I see. The four principles are these:

1. The Book of Acts is a history book, not a doctrinal book.
2. When people in the Bible were touched by the Holy Spirit, they always feel frontwards, not backwards.
3. The Holy Spirit brings control to a person's life, not confusion.
4. It is the responsibility of all believers to be able to spot a phony.

The Book of Acts Is a History Book, Not a Doctrinal Book

Next to conversion, the greatest thing that has ever happened to mankind is the fact that we have the printed Word of God. It is a blessing to have it in our native tongue. The Bible is the greatest piece of literature ever written. But it's more than literature. It's the very Word of God.

What that means is that we don't have to go through life wondering about spiritual things. We have the truth. The Bible was given to us to help us know right from wrong. As it relates to the concept of testing the spirits, it is imperative that we be reminded of the purpose of the Bible and the purpose of each of the books. They are written with a specific aim in mind. To fail to understand this is to be confused and in the dark.

Most of you know the Bible is in two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. It has two sections but actually only one part. It is a whole volume. It is no accident that the Bible is written the way it is written. For instance, the Old Testament is basically the story of how God's people, the Jews, came into existence. It is the history of how God dealt with them.

Granted, it contains more than that. It does tell about creation, the home, and how sin began. But the overall picture must be kept in focus. There are many ways to see this but the one I like the best is from C. I. Scofield. Scofield presents the sections of the Bible like this:

1. *The Preparation*: the Old Testament.
2. *The Manifestation*: the Gospels.
3. *The Propagation*: the Book of Acts.

4. *The Explanation*: the Epistles.

5. *The Consummation*: the Revelation.

The Bible is one book with one theme: Jesus Christ. It tells how a fallen race came to know forgiveness and be reconciled with a holy God.

Penalty of and provision for sin

The Preparation, or the Old Testament, tells how mankind sinned, what God required as the penalty of sin, the necessity of the shedding of blood for the cleansing of sin, the coming of a future Messiah who would once for all remove the need for other sacrifices, and how the people of God, the Jews, responded to that story.

The New Testament, it has been rightfully said, is the Old Testament revealed. The Old Testament tells about a coming Messiah. The New Testament tells about the Messiah who had come.

The Messiah

The Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) give different pictures and purposes of the Messiah. Matthew presents the Messiah as King; Mark presents the Messiah as a servant; Luke presents the Messiah as the Son of man, and John presents the Messiah as the Son of God. Each Gospel tells how those who put their faith in the Messiah are to be telling others about the Messiah. We call this the Great Commission.

Early Church

The Book of Acts is a history of how those early Jews went about spreading the news about the Messiah. It tells how those Jews began to establish churches. The churches that were established reveal the greater picture of that church presented in the Old Testament in the wilderness.

An important concept is the fact that the Jews were told to share the gospel not just with other Jews, but with the Gentiles as well. The Book of Acts records many stories of how Jew and Gentile came to put their faith in Christ.

Instructions

New Christians needed to know how to live, so God through the Holy Spirit, superintended men to write. We call these writings epistles. They are letters. Some are written to churches; others are written to individuals. But each was written to give insight, information, illumination and inspiration for the believer.

The Old Testament tells about a coming Messiah who would die for the sins of mankind; the New Testament tells about the birth, life, death and resurrection of that Messiah. But that is not the end of the story. What is to be the future of all believers? That's why the Revelation was written.

Manifestations

The Book of Acts tells the story of the beginnings of Christianity. It is a history of all that transpired — the good times, the bad times. It tells how God took the message of Christ and put it into other languages besides the language of the Jews (Acts 2:1–3). In fact 15 different languages are listed on that miraculous day; miracles were performed to show the power of this Messiah.

Acts tells how God got the attention of the then known world. But Acts was never intended to be a model or blueprint for other churches to follow. Those early Christians didn't have the advantage of the completed written Word. They needed visible manifestations of the power of God. Our visible manifestation is the Bible.

The point is this: be careful of any group or individual who seeks to copy the Book of Acts in setting up a ministry for today. Frankly, if we followed the blueprints of Acts, we would not have church buildings, we would not have conveniences like restrooms, air conditioning, running water or electricity.

The church in the Book of Acts is a good illustration of the fact that principles don't change, but methods do. We can follow their principles, but their methods won't work in our day.

People in the Bible Who Were Touched by the Holy Spirit Fell Frontwards, Not Backwards

On the surface, this may not appear to be important but the more I think about it, the more important it seems to be. In many televised programs where there is an emphasis on the Holy Spirit, people are seen falling on their backs and lying on the floor.

The person who falls is usually standing before the preacher. Directly behind the person are usually two other people ready to catch the individual and cover them up if need be. Typically, when the person falls, he lies on the ground on his back and appears to be asleep or in an unconscious state. Other times they may roll around almost as if in a fit of hysteria. This is usually called being "...slain in the spirit."

I began a search through the Scriptures regarding this kind of activity. There are more references than time will permit but note these few.

1. Numbers 20:6, "And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and *they fell upon their faces*: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them."

2. Joshua 5:14, "And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And *Joshua fell on his face* to the earth, and did worship and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?"

3. 1 Kings 18:42, "So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he *cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees....*"

4. 2 Chronicles 20:18, "And *Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground*; and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord worshipping the Lord."

5. Nehemiah 8:6, "And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hand; and *they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.*"

Several things need to be observed. First, in every case falling was frontwards, or on the face, instead of the back.

Second, the one doing the falling was the speaker, not the people.

Cont. on next page

Third, the one who had fallen was not in a trance but was conscious to the point they were able to pray and worship the Lord. Even when there were several people who had fallen they were also on their faces and in a conscious state.

The Stolen Ark

I then remembered two other interesting accounts. One is in 1 Samuel 5:3.

The story here is when the Philistines had stolen the Ark of the Covenant from the Children of Israel. The Philistines had taken the Ark into the house of the heathen god, Dagon. They set the idol, Dagon, and the Ark of the Covenant side by side.

The next morning when Ashdod, who was responsible for watching over Dagon, came into the house, Dagon had fallen over on his face before the Ark of the Covenant. Assuming that Dagon had merely fallen over, Ashdod set him back up by the side of the Ark of the Covenant.

The next morning, Ashdod discovered not only had Dagon fallen over again with his face towards the Ark of the Covenant, but his hands and head had been cut off. He was only a stump!

Jesus' Arrest

The other account is about a group of men who did fall backwards. This story is found in John 18:6. Jesus was about to be arrested. Judas was about to betray Jesus. A band of men had been sent to bring Jesus to trial. Jesus asked the men who they were looking for.

When they said they were looking for Jesus, He responded by saying He was Jesus. That so shocked the men that they fell backwards to the ground. It is obvious these men were not believers. They wouldn't have been trying to arrest Him if they had been. Their falling backward was due to fear, not faith.

The point to be learned is this. When you come into the presence of the Lord, it's a humbling experience. You want to fall on your face in worship. When you come into His presence you are conscious and alert and want to worship Him.

The Holy Spirit Brings Control to a Person's Life, Not Confusion

In recent days some bizarre things have been taking place. Not just a few illustrations.

People crawling on the floor mooing like a cow, roaring like a lion; men crawling like dogs with leashes around their necks singing, *Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow*. Others strut around like chickens flapping their arms as if they had wings.

Still others fall on the floor having the jerks similar to epileptic seizures. One lady had a dream of The Wizard of Oz in which she said the Lord told her that Dorothy's dog, Toto, was actually the Holy Spirit.

A minister waves his arms over an audience and people in great numbers fall to the floor. Two preachers become so overcome by the Holy Spirit that they begin to speak in tongues, without an interpretation, where they also begin to laugh uncontrollably.

A pastor has a dream and in the dream sees and hears the rock group *The Beatles*; after his dream he says the Lord tells him that this is the kind of music that is to be used to win the world.

These illustrations are not made up. They are actual accounts of people who believe they were experiencing a movement of the Holy Spirit. Each of these illustrations I have either personally seen on video or have read them.

Biblical Warnings

These and many more illustrations, are quite different from what the Bible teaches. Paul the Apostle makes it clear that the Holy Spirit does not bring confusion and hysteria. Note his words in 1 Corinthians 14:40, "Let all things be done decently and in order."

The interesting thing about this verse is the fact that it follows Paul's message regarding the gifts of the Holy Spirit, so he is definitely talking about the Holy Spirit doing things that are proper and orderly, particularly in the areas of the church and a person's oral testimony. The word "decently" means that which is graceful and becoming.

Confusion is one of the trademarks of the devil. Confusion is never a quality of the Holy Spirit. Note again Paul's word in 1 Corinthians 14:33; "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

All of us need to be reminded of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Bible makes it plain that He, the Holy Spirit is involved with God, the believers, the Scriptures themselves and Jesus Christ.

As He relates to God, the Holy Spirit was involved with the works of creation (Job 33:4), regeneration (John 3:5-8) and the Resurrection (Romans 8:11).

As being related to believers He regenerates (John 3:3-5), indwells (1 Corinthians 6:19), seals (Ephesians 1:13-14), infills (Ephesians 5:18), empowers (Romans 8:2), guides (Romans 8:14), and anoints (1 John 2:27; Luke 4:18).

As He is related to the Scriptures, He was involved with their being written (2 Peter 1:20-21), and as the interpreter of them, particularly to the mind and heart of believers (John 16:14-15).

To Jesus, the Holy Spirit was involved in conception (Luke 1:35), His leading (Matthew 4:1), anointing (Acts 10:38), crucifixion (Hebrews 9:14) and Resurrection (Romans 1:4).

It is also clear that the Holy Spirit never uplifts Himself over Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself said that in John 16:13: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself..." and again in John 16:14: "He shall glorify me..." All these references point to the fact that the Holy Spirit is not the author of confusion.

The Holy Spirit certainly does not lead us to do things that are contrary to the Scriptures. He does not cause us to be in a state of altered consciousness. He does not take away our mental capacity to think. He does not cause us to become so emotionally overwrought that we become hysterical or do that which resembles activities attributed to the devil.

One Public Warning

Let me share an experience I had several years ago. The

city was Florence, South Carolina. The ministry of David Wilkerson, author of *The Cross and The Switchblade*, was popular. Brother Wilkerson was preaching in some day services at an Assembly of God church. I had read all his books and had been following his ministry. (Years later I had the opportunity to meet him personally and introduce him to speak to the National Youth Conference when I was employed by the Church Training Service Department.)

I sat on the front row. He preached a powerful message about living clean and pure. When he gave the invitation, a young lady responded. When she came forward, she began to scream and yell and shake.

Very quietly he said to her, "Young lady, please be quiet." Very few people heard him say that. She did not get quiet but got louder. Again, he asked her to be quiet, but she did not. Brother Wilkerson came from behind the pulpit took her by the arm and said, "I said to shut up!"

She immediately got quiet. He went back to the microphone and said, "Some of you may have just seen what I did. Let me tell you why I did that. When you come to an altar and act like that, people who need to come will not come. You are causing confusion when you act like that."

When he continued the invitation, several more teenagers responded in a quiet but moving way. Brother Wilkerson knew the importance and the difference between a real move of the Holy Spirit and confusion that is brought about by an unholy spirit.

It Is the Responsibility of All Believers to Be Able to Spot a Fake

Jesus warned that there would be a time when false prophets would abound. Note His words: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24).

Jesus also let it be known there would be spiritual pretenders who would not only deceive others, but would deceive themselves as well. Read Matthew 7:21–23. Jesus makes it plain that some would even do wonderful works and miracles, and yet they would not belong to Him.

Sometimes it is easy to spot a fake; other times it takes more spiritual discernment. This is what John talks about in the text. Let me suggest three ways to spot a fake.

A fake equates the blessings of God with money.

The grace of God cannot be bought. The power of God cannot be bought either. In fact the Bible gives a story about one man who tried to buy the power of God. It is found in Acts 8:9–25.

Don't fall for this deception. Exercise discernment and recognize that while it is appropriate to help to support a ministry, it is not of God to buy power and healing.

A fake adds things that the Scriptures do not teach.

There are two things that I want to point out here. First not all sickness or troubles are because of a lack of faith. Many so called faith healers would like you to believe that people are sick because of sin or lack of faith.

But that does not coincide with Scripture. Paul had a thorn in the flesh and prayed for it to be removed. It was never removed. Was it because of Paul's lack of faith? No! His thorn in the flesh remained so that the grace of God could be more visibly demonstrated.

Jesus even prayed for God to remove the cup of death from Him, but it was not removed. Was it because Jesus didn't have enough faith? No! It was necessary for Him to die in order that we might be saved.

Second, many so-called faith healers now claim that in order to be healed, particularly from some form of demon possession, you have to name the demon. I believe in the demonic world, but I can't find in the Bible where I am supposed to name them in order to get rid of their power.

A fake claims he is not accountable to any other person.

He claims to have some special gift or new revelation. He claims to have a direct line to God that no one else has.

All of us are accountable to God for our personal actions but we have a responsibility to one another as well. We are our brother's keeper! Stay away from the individual who refuses to be held accountable for his deeds.

Conclusions

Be committed to the Scriptures.

The Protestant Reformation was motivated by the motto, "Sola Scriptura," which simply means, "Scripture alone." Don't look for something new and don't listen to those who claim to have a new revelation. It's just not going to happen.

Model your life after Christ.

Every thing you need to be a successful Christian can be seen in the life of Christ. Do what He did and you'll be fine. He obeyed His Heavenly Father; He believed in and practiced the Scriptures; He was baptized; He even washed feet; He prayed; He helped others. But He never spoke in tongues; He never allowed Himself to get in an emotional trance; He never gave up the right to think for Himself.

Be aware of counterfeits.

A counterfeit looks very much like the genuine. Becoming familiar with the genuine is how you recognize the counterfeit. Know as much about God and His Word as you can.

Guard your mind and your emotions.

Don't let anyone take away your right to think. Don't be afraid to question things you don't understand. The truth is not afraid of scrutiny. Don't let your emotions and experiences become more important than established truth.

About the Writer: Dr. Ken Riggs pastors West Meade Fellowship in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He taught 23 years at the college, chairing the education department 18 years.

Submitted by the author. Originally printed in *Contact*, October 1997.

Are All Things Possible?

by C. H. Overman

(This message was delivered during Founder's Day service, Tuesday, November 25, 1997, at Mount Olive College)

"Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).

"And Jesus answered and saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

In Mark 9:14-29 we have recorded the incident of the disciples' inability to heal a young man who was possessed by a dumb spirit, a spirit that controlled him to the point that he was demented. The words of Jesus spoke in Verse 23 were spoken to the child's father who had pleaded for compassion. Jesus' Words were positive concerning faith — "if thou believest..."

In Mark 10:23-31 Jesus issued a warning to His disciples concerning riches. "...how hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (vv. 24-25). Their response to Jesus Words was, "...who then can be saved?" (v. 26). Jesus answered their questions in Verse 27 as given above.

In Matthew 17:20 we again note Jesus' response to the powerless disciples in reference to the same person that Mark tells about. Jesus informed the disciples that they could not cast out the evil spirit because of their unbelief, telling them "...if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." He was saying that much can be accomplished with what we may consider to be a small amount of faith.

How do the Words of Jesus concerning faith

in these verses apply, or fit into, this special day here at Mount Olive College?

Look around you. What do you see? We see a 100-acre campus with beautiful buildings — buildings that have been well planned and well constructed. We see students and faculty dedicated to the cause of higher education. I have several photos that I have taken on this campus. My favorite one is a picture of this Chapel, sort of framed within the trees across campus.

Think about the beginning of this College almost 47 years ago. I was there, as were some of you. Not everyone believed it could be done, but there were those who believed we needed a place to learn, a place to "become educated." The founding fathers believed it, in spite of its feeble beginning with only a few dollars to begin with.

Founder's Day reminds us that faith has been exercised, beginning years ago by delegates in a small denominational gathering. We are also reminded that there are always those who step to the forefront. It was true in Biblical times with men such as Moses, Joshua, Paul, etc., and it is true today and has been so in the history of this College.

Founder's Day also reminds us that there are always doubters — those who say it cannot be done. Twelve spies were sent by Moses to spy out the land that God had promised His people. Ten of them, however, doubted. Their conclusion was that the land could never be taken; there were giants in the land, and the cities were walled. Dr. Leon Jenkins, a former chancellor of East Carolina University, referred to such persons as "dark clouds." Jesus referred to them as "...ye of little faith" (Luke 12:28).

There are always those who oppose. Some of the first remarks I ever heard about this College were negative. Early in his ministry Billy Graham had his critics who sought to confine him to a restricted ministry; however, he adopted a policy of "cooperative evangelism," thus increasing his influence and ministry far beyond what he ever imagined.

Joshua Chapter 4 gave us the story of the two memorials that were erected by the priests upon the crossing of the Jordan River. One memorial was erected in the midst of the river, to be ultimately covered by its waters. The other memorial was erected "over Jordan." In years to come, when later generations asked, "What do these stones mean?" They could tell the story of their nation, and especially the crossing of Jordan.

This College has been constructed of stones — mortar, brick, etc., plus the committed lives of the faithful. It's story must be told and retold to each generation, and all will realize that with God all things are possible.



The Call to the Word

Where is it written that we have to be kind,
as if kindness for our species
meant more than survival,
more than getting and spending,
more than watching and wasting,
the world but a face of dye
that covers the shadows of souls.

Where is it written that we have to suffer,
as if suffering within our species
did not apply to that whole race,
Hitler in history also in us,
earth a landscape of disease, fever,
and fret,
the world but a dungeon of demons
that rage, rage against the good.

Where is it written that we have to celebrate,
as if celebration for our species
meant more than despair,
more than isolating and
withdrawing,
more than pouting and refusing,
the world but a trail of trials
that bury us into underground
people.

Where is it written that we have to love,
as if love for our species
meant more than judgment,
more than rejecting and discarding,
more than revenge and denial,
the world but a line of demarcation
that divides and divides and divides
until there is only division.

Let it be written that we were kind
because we were here on loan,
all our pockets of power,
houses, bank accounts, deeds of trust
on loan to us in the thin space
between birth and death,
kindness but a reminder
of the spirit, the name, the will
of Jesus.

Let it be written that we suffered
because we were not exempt from
pain;
we wept, we prayed, we cried
against agony
as if to convince ourselves to keep
believing
the good will prevail
between birth and death,
suffering but a reminder

of the spirit, the name the will
of Jesus

Let it be written that we were joyous
because we celebrated the moment
of our lives and all lives,
the brevity of our being,
our chance, our wonder, our deed
marked in minutes in the thin space
between birth and death,
celebration but a reminder
of the spirit, the name, the will
of Jesus

Let it be written that we loved
because we awoke with love,
we saw, tasted, touched love
in human lives, eyes, wind, rain
as if the reason for being
were precious, multi-layered
between birth and death,
love but a reminder
of the spirit, the name, the will
of Jesus.

Pepper Worthington
September 17, 1997

(Based on the Conventions theme for
1997-'98).

My Tears Have Led Me Here...

by Frieda Craft

I cry for a nation in turmoil;
I mourn for a world in need.
For the tired, bereaved and unhealthy I know,
To the faithless, hungry, and hopeless I go.
For these, my Savior did bleed.

How did I get here; for whence have I come?
What more can I give to each man?
How much can I love
For the Father above?
Let me reach out to touch every hand.

God provides no conditions that require to receive;
He gives us love unconditional sure.
At every tear, I must go,
For the burden I know.
Love's death on the cross life secured.

In the hearts of his children, resides He today,
How will they know but through us?
We must work, we must tell;
His Word doth compel,
For to us, His great love He entrusts.

You ask why I go, how I see, what I do;
It's required of me to resound
The triumph o'er death,
The victory through Life,
On his Word, I have found solid ground.

In my heart I believe, if the world understood,
The grace I behold as my own,
They would know why He's dear
Yes, my tears brought me here,
For his mercy I've personally known.

Won't you hear when he calls you to service?
Do not turn when He shows you the way.
Give your life to bring others his truth to invest.
For one soul's salvation for harvest might rest.
And depend on something You say.

In dedication to our missionaries who bravely work in the fields for Christ.

1998 World Day of Prayer

March 6, 1998

Worship and Service Guides

The observance of a World Day of Prayer had its origin in 1887 when Mrs. Darwin R. James, president of the Women's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church (USA), sent out a call to Presbyterian women for a national day of prayer, "when there shall be a confession of individual and national sins, with offerings that will fitly express their contribution." Soon other denominations joined in this day of prayer.

The National Association of Evangelicals, one of the 110 national members of World Evangelical Fellowship, has been providing materials without charge to evangelical churches in the United States of America for annual World Day of Prayer programs since 1947.

The 1998 World Day of Prayer worship guide provides a suggested order for worship focused on God's guidance in our lives. It extols the Lord and leads those in worship to thoughtfully examine who Christ is and what He brings to our lives. Virtually, the entire text of the guide is from Scripture. This guide, through the reading and singing, reminds the participant of the powerful truth of all that we have in Christ. From such worship, participants are commissioned to go, exemplify Christ, proclaim the gospel and make disciples.

Participating churches are encouraged to receive an offering specifically for the ongoing ministry and reconciliation efforts of the National Association of Evangelicals. A place is provided on the order form below to demonstrate your desire to help the association in this manner.

Please complete the order form below and mail today.

Check the NAE membership box, enclose \$30 for individual personal membership, and you will receive — along with the standard membership benefits — the book, *Standing Up, Standing Together: The Emergence of the National Association of Evangelicals*, by Arthur H. Matthews, as a premium for your prompt response. Quantities of this premium are available on a limited basis.

World Day of Prayer

You may have as many of these guides as you need. They are prepared by the National Association of Evangelicals as part of this ministry to the churches of America. No charge is made for the guides, but we do ask that you receive an offering at the service to help extend the ministries of the association.

- ☐ Send _____ copies of World Day of Prayer worship guides.
- ☐ We will receive an offering for the ministries of the National Association of Evangelicals.
- ☐ NAE Individual Personal Membership — \$30 is enclosed with my order. (*Standing Up, Standing Together: The Emergence of the National Association of Evangelicals*, by Arthur H. Matthews — limited premium.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please send order form to the
National Association of Evangelicals to
NAE, PO Box 28, Wheaton, IL 60189.

Camp Vandemere

Our Family Enrichment Center

by The Rev. Owen Arthur

All is quiet at the camp at the present time since we have closed for the season. But it will not be long before we will be opening for another season for campers, church groups, family groups, and those who just come by for a short visit. There is already an excitement in the air as we think about another year at Camp Vandemere.

A couple weeks ago I went down to the camp just to look around. All was quiet, no one else was around, but as I looked around I became excited thinking about what the Lord is doing at Camp Vandemere. I remembered the young people who have attended camp and what a blessing they received. I remembered the churches that have been and what a wonderful time they had, and as they left they would be sure to remind us to keep our calendar open for their next visit at Camp Vandemere. I was by myself that day, but yet the memories were so wonderful that I felt that many of you were there with me.

I want to say "thank you" to all of you who have kept the camp in your prayers. It's through your prayers that the camp has been able to continue to be a blessing to all of us. For those who have sent us financial help, we want to say "thank you." Because of you we have been able to operate and pay our expenses as we go. Although the camp is closed for the season, we still have many expenses. We must continue to pay our electric bill, our water bill, and at the same time do the needed repairs. Much of the repairs that have been done since the end of the season has been done by friends of the camp and has not cost us anything. There are several things that we would like to do as soon as funds become available.

The Gillikin house could stand a complete renovation. We would like to tear off the closed in front porch, so it can once again be used as a porch. I can visualize our people sitting on the porch, rocking, talking, and having a

wonderful time as they look out at Bay River. We would like to put vinyl siding on the outside so it would be more attractive and better insulated. We would like to remodel the inside so it would be better suited for family groups or maybe a Sunday school group.

Plans are already underway to finish the last room in the Family Lodge. As soon as the weather becomes warm enough so that the workers can work, without being so cold, they will start. Again we hope to do most of this with help from friends of the camp. Sometimes a group will go down and spend a night or two and work at the same time, maybe even do a little fishing.

I think the most urgent item that we need is a new ice machine. The one we have is as old or older than the camp. It works for a while and gets tired and quits. The repairman doesn't know what's wrong. Since it is so old, and at times our requirements for ice is greater than it can supply, the board feels that we need to purchase a new ice machine. Please pray for us as we work on this project.

Another project that we are planning is to build more beds for the dorms. These beds will be made a little different than those we already have. First, they will be lower to the floor, some are a little afraid of heights, and have asked us if we could make some beds lower and a little wider than the others. The camp belongs to you the people and we try to accommodate all people's needs at the camp.

We do have some openings for helpers this year. First, we need a dietician. This person would be responsible for preparing the menu, see that all meals are prepared, as well as ordering the necessary food supplies. We could use two sets of dieticians — one for the regular camps, Monday through Friday, and someone who would be interested in helping some on

weekends. We are getting more calls for meals on Friday nights, Saturdays, and a few on Sunday. This could work very well for someone who is in the school system who would like summer employment.

We have a need for a grounds keeper. Such a person would be responsible for keeping our grounds well trimmed and looking attractive for all our guests. This person could probably do all their work in a couple of days and be free the rest of the time to work other jobs if desired. This would be well suited for a retired, or semi-retired person. We have the equipment, all we need is someone to help us in keeping our grounds looking attractive. Each of these positions is very important. Those who are interested should be a Christian and be able to work in the Christian environment. If you are interested in either of these positions please contact our manager, Mr. Aldric Gaskins, 919-637-4949.

We are looking forward to this new year at Camp Vandemere. I just feel the joy and enthusiasm building as I look over the tentative schedule. You will notice there are some vacancies on our schedule. This would be a great opportunity for a church to bring all their young people down for a special week or perhaps a group of senior citizens would like to utilize the time for some special events. Please call our manager and discuss this with him.

Mr. Aldric Gaskins — Manager
919-637-4949 or 919-745-3171

Rev. Ralph Sumner — Gen. Manager
910-298-5885

Mrs. Judith Kennedy — Treasurer
910-298-4311

Rev. Owen Arthur — Chairman
919-633-1185

Tentative Schedule on next page.

Camp Vandemere Tentative Schedule for 1998

April 11	Orientation and seminar for all staff and directors.
April 18	Clean up day.
April 25	Fish fry.
June 5, 6	Laymen's League Spiritual Life Retreat
June 8-12	Women's Week Audrey Quinn, Director 461 Wintergreen Road Cove City, NC 28523 919-638-6406
June 15-19	Stanley Buck, Director 3200 Western Blvd. Tarboro, NC 27886 919-823-3964
June 22-26	Ralph Sumner, Director 571 Sumner Road Pink Hill, NC 28572 910-298-5885
June 29- July 3	Jason Modlin, Director 634 Henderson Street Mount Olive, NC 28365 919-658-7170
July 6-10	Eva Mae Clark, Director 465 Half Moon Road New Bern, NC 28560 919-637-6346
July 13-17	Ray and Genny Conner, Directors 182 Holly Springs Road Newport, NC 28570 919-223-4570
July 20-24	Joe Radcliff, Director 6280 US Hwy 17 N. Vanceboro, NC 28586 919-244-0407
July 27-31	Open
August 3-7	Open
August 8	All Day Gospel Sing

Layman's League Dates to Remember

February 5	Promotional Committee Free Will Baptist Headquarters, Ayden 7:30 PM
March 2	Central Conference Layman's League Kings Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church 7:00 PM — Supper, 7:45 PM — Business Meeting
March 5	Executive Board of Layman's League Free Will Baptist Headquarters, Ayden 7:30 PM
May 2	State Layman's League Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg 7:00 PM
May 23	State Layman's Singspiration Harrell's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Snow Hill 6:00 PM
June 5-6	Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat Camp Vandemere



1873 - 1998

*Celebrating 125 Years
of Service
to Original Free Will Baptists*

Denominational Ministries

February Is Sunday School Month

Sunday School Promotion Sunday

February 22, 1998

Call in your Church's Successes

Call and tell us your Sunday school attendance, your morning worship attendance, and the amount of your Special Offering for the Sunday School Ministry.
Call between 2:00 and 4:00 PM; Call your representative from the list below.

Albemarle Conference
Cape Fear Conference
Central Conference
Eastern Conference

Pee Dee Association
Piedmont Conference
Western Conference

Paul Grubbs — 919-335-9437
Kathy Markuson — 910-425-6698
Frankie Baggett — 919-746-7850
Cathy Crumpler — 919-568-3758
Evelyn English — 919-638-5038
Kip Godwin — 800-748-3332
Bobby Foy — 910-431-2268
Terry Ford — 919-239-1793

Reminder: Please receive a "special offering" for the work of the Sunday School Ministry.



Sunday School Institute

Mount Olive College
Saturday, March 7, 1998

Theme: Celebrating Diversity in the Sunday School

Registration and Opening Assembly for Adults, Murphy Center 8:45 – 9:30 AM

Adult Workshops — 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Youth Program — 8:45 AM – 1:30 PM

Pre-School – High School

Directors: The Rev. Frankie Baggett and Mrs. Cathy Crumpler

Registration Fee — \$50.00 per church
(includes all food and materials)

Coffee, juice, danish available on arrival
Brunch 11:40 – 12:30

179 Graduate During First December Graduation

Approximately 1,200 people assembled in College Hall on Saturday, December 20, 1997, to witness 179 students receive degrees. The ceremony was the first ever mid-year graduation.

Worship Service

The Rev. Gary M. Bailey, pastor of Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC, delivered the commencement sermon to a full chapel preceding graduation. The Rev. Frank Harrison, campus chaplain, presided, and Dr. Opey D. Jeanes, vice president for special services, gave the commencement prayer.

Bailey encourage the graduates to represent and speak for God. Citing Timothy, he said that we should train ourselves to be Godly and not become entangled in trivial matters.

"The ten commandments have not been repealed," Bailey said. "And they never will be the ten suggestions."

He told the graduates and others in attendance that our world and our nation need more genuine Godliness in this life and in the life to come.

Graduation

Mr. K. David Brame, a member of Marsh Swamp Church and North American sales manager for Ganymede Software, Inc., delivered the graduation

address.

He told graduates to enjoy this day, citing Scripture, "This is the day the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Brame talked about three challenges that the graduates would face — staying motivated, overcoming negativism, and making the right decisions.

With respect to staying motivated, he suggested that we set small goals for ourselves, which will lead to achievement of larger goals over time.

To overcome negative influences, Brame cautioned graduates about "nabobs of negativism," a phrase he borrowed from former Vice President Spiro Agnew. "Believe in yourself," Brame advised. "You have abilities which can only be realized by hard work and focus."

Concerning decision making, Brame counseled the graduates to exercise self-discipline for small decisions and to pray for guidance for large decisions.

"Self discipline will continue to be important throughout your life if you are to be successful," he said. "A personal habit I have is not making large decisions, career changes, life-changing decisions without praying to God for guidance," he said.

The Numbers

At graduation, 160 students were awarded the Bachelor of Science, 12 received the Bachelor of Applied Science, three the Bachelor of Arts, and four the Associate in Applied Science.

Fifty-seven attended



Dr. Opey Jeanes, the Rev. Gary Bailey, and the Rev. Frank Harrison, pose outside Rodgers Chapel moments before the fall commencement worship service.

classes at Mount Olive College in New Bern, 41 in Goldsboro at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, 31 from the evening college at Mount Olive, 27 from the four-year program at Mount Olive, and 23 from Wilmington.

The college recently established another location in Research Triangle Park which is now enrolling students.

Other Participants

Other participants in the graduation exercise were: Dr. Eugene M. Sumner, chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees; Mr. Brad Miller, president of the Class of 1998; Dr. J. William Byrd, president; Dr. Vincent W. Beach, vice president of Academic Affairs; Mr. L. Marvin Edwards, Jr., chairman of the Board of Trustees; Mr. Earl W. Worley, Jr., president of the Alumni Association; Dr. Karen K. Jones, director of Mount Olive College at Wilmington, and Mr. Gary F. Barefoot, Faculty Marshal.

Graduating senior Leah Smith sang, "O Saviour, Hear Me" and was accompanied on the piano by Victoria Todaro, also graduating.

The Mount Olive Community Instrumental Ensemble, directed by Mr. David S. Stentz, Jr., provided music for the prelude, the processional, and the recessional.



Dianne Riley, director of Alumni Relations congratulates Victor K. Jones, a graduate and member of Whaley's Chapel FWB Church.

The Eighth Annual Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture

Theme: The Minister's Spiritual Life

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

GUEST LECTURER: DR. E. GLENN HINSON
PROFESSOR OF SPIRITUALITY
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT RICHMOND

Tuesday • February 24 • 9:30 AM
Rodgers Chapel • Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, North Carolina

Schedule of Events:

Registration (no fee)	9:00 AM
Lecture One: <i>Inner Preparation for Ministry on the Edge of a New Millennium</i>	9:30 AM
Break and Refreshments	10:30 AM
Worship Service: <i>What the World Needs Most</i> (Luke 2:36–38)	11:00 AM
Luncheon (\$8.00) and Dialogue	12:00 NOON
In the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center	
Lecture Two: <i>Ministers as Midwives and Mothers of Grace</i>	1:30 PM

About the Vivian B. Harrison Lecture...

The Vivian B. Harrison Lecture was established by the Rev. Frank R. Harrison in memory of his wife. The purpose of the lecture is to provide a medium for continuing education for the ministers and lay persons of eastern North Carolina.

Mrs. Harrison was a graduate of Mount Olive College and Barton College, where she earned a B.S. degree in elementary education. She taught public school in North Carolina for 17 years before retiring in 1986 due to illness. She was a member of Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Greene County and was the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Beamon and the late Mr. Charlie T. Beamon of Walstonburg, North Carolina.

The Rev. Frank Harrison is a graduate of Mount Olive College, Barton College, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has completed two years of post-graduate studies in pastoral care and counseling at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. Mr. Harrison has served as Campus Minister at Mount Olive College since 1971 and teaches courses in practical theology.

About the Harrison Lecturer...

Dr. E. Glenn Hinson is currently Professor of Spirituality and John F. Loftis Professor of Church History at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Prior to joining the faculty at Richmond, Dr. Hinson taught at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky from 1959–1992. In addition, he has taught at Wake Forest University, Catholic University of America, and the University of Notre Dame. Very much in demand as a lecturer, he has made presentations at major universities including Duke University, Union Theological Seminary, University of Virginia, Earlham College, Yale University, and Regent's Park College, Oxford, England.

Dr. Hinson was educated at Washington University in St. Louis (B.A.), the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky (B.D., Th. D.), and Oxford University (D. Phil.). His extensive list of publications includes *First and Second Timothy and Titus* in the Broadman Bible Commentary, *A Serious Call to a Contemplative Lifestyle*, and *The Church Triumphant: A History of Christianity up to 1300*. His range of studies has included New Testament, Patristics, Ecclesiology, Spirituality, Liturgy, Ecumenics, and Baptist History.

February Events

Sunday, February 22	U.S. Army Band and Soldier Chorus, 2:00 PM, College Hall.
Tuesday, February 24	Vivian B. Harrison Lecture, beginning at 9:00 AM, Rodgers Chapel
Thursday, February 26	Lorelle Martin Science Lecture, 7:30 PM, Rodgers Chapel

Christmas On the Hill

Children and staff of the Children's Home celebrated the Christmas season with various groups who brought cheer to our campus during December. Woodmen of the World, Glaxo Wellcome, and "Shop with a Cop" from Raleigh visited with our children to share the joy of the holidays.



Youth Groups Visit Children's Home

Team of Truth from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Wilson, NC, and the youth group from Bethel, NC, visited our campus in December. Both groups contributed paper products to the home during their visits. Thank you for your visit and your gifts.



Team of Truth, First Church of Wilson, NC



Bethel Church Youth Group

Donations

Mr. Tim Murray presented a check for \$450 to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in December. Mr. Murray presented the gift to Dr. Taylor on behalf of the employees of "Carpet by Thads." Thank you Mr. Murray and company.



CHILDREN'S HOME

Thank You

The children and staff of The Free Will Baptist Children's Home wish to express their gratitude for your kindness and thoughtfulness during the '97 Christmas season. Your response to our sponsorship program and our annual Christmas campaigns made a difference in the Christmas experience for our children here at the Home. Thank you very much for your gifts and support. It is our prayer God will richly bless you for touching the lives of children.

Facts for Thought

"Join the Flock"

(When you read this, substitute the word "churches" or "denominations" where you find "companies." You'll get the message.)

FACT: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if a bird flew alone.

LESSON: Companies who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

FACT: Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the draft and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

LESSON: When companies have the wisdom of geese, all will stay in formation and be willing to accept help as well as give help to others.

FACT: When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation, and another goose flies at the point position.

LESSON: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership with others, as with geese, we are interdependent on each other.

FACT: The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep their speed.

LESSON: Communication is vital to staying on track, but we should make sure the honking is encouraging and not something else.

FACT: When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation, or try to catch up with the flock.

LESSON: If companies have the wisdom of geese, they too will stand by each other in difficult times, as well as when we are strong.

Join the Flock!



February

Is Sunday School and Christian Education Month

Prayer

Things

SUN		MON	TUE
1	2	3	4
8	9	10 Foreign Missions Board Meeting	11
15	16 President's Day	17 FWB Press Board Meeting	18
22 Sunday School Promotion Sunday US Army Band and Soldier Chorus, 2:00 PM Washington's Birthday	23	24 Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture, 9:30 AM Mount Olive College	25 Ash W
1	2	3	4

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

cerns _____

Remember _____

	THU	FRI	SAT
	5 Layman's League Promotional Committee Headquarters, 7:30 PM	6	7 Stewardship Study Course for Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary, 9:30 AM
	12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>
	19 Children's Home Board Meeting	20	21
	26 Lorelle Martin Science Lecture, 7:30 PM	27 <i>Free Will Baptist Day of Prayer</i>	28
day	5	6	7

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

And Now We Have It!

by the Rev. Zacarias Perocillo

Oh, praise God! A few words uttered by Pastor Armand Manzano, thanking God for the water pump. The said water pump has been one of the BIG (Believe in God Project) Projects, including the church fence and the flooring. The flooring was first accomplished just a year later, and now here's the water pump. Thank God for our Foreign Mission Director who generously offered the finances needed in putting it up. It's an evidence of God's response to prayer and the reality behind the saying "do your best and God will do the rest."

Yes, it took almost 2 long years of prayer and months of cooperation through offerings especially for the water pump and labor offered by His children before it came to existence. It was just started on November 11 and finished November 15, just a few days of completing the task, and now, it's ready for use. We are asking for your prayers to have all the projects done.

It is true that God will provide the needs of His children if only we will believe and act in accordance to it. Praise the Lord!



News Letter From India and Nepal

by Dr. E. M. Lall

In the wake of ever-rising caste, creed and communalism in the country which had never been witnessed earlier, the Free Will Baptists pioneered in calling for leaders of all religions on August 10, 1997, at Bareilly in keeping with the church Aims and Objects wedded with the 'constitution' of the church i.e. "For Peace on Earth, Good Will among Nations, Justice, Freedom and Salvation for All Mankind." The meeting was presided by His Excellency, the Commissioner of Bareilly Division, Mr. Deepak Shingal, wherein the oath of Allegiance was conducted by the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Mr. L. P. Misra.

All the leaders of different religious expressed their views for the cause of peace and harmony. The meeting was a grand success and second to none in the country. It was indeed a privilege that I was unanimously elected as national patron of such a mass movement.

The church work is again gaining momentum in the new fields. For instance Anil Lall, my son who is graduating in Bachelor of Divinity Theological course at Union Biblical Seminary, Pune, about sixteen hundred miles away from Bareilly in the state of Maharashtra in Southern part of the

country, on his week ends started the church work at upper Indra Nagar, which is a staunch Hindu colony, from June, 1997, among the 150 medium class families. Mr. and Mrs. Gaekwad (both Hindus) of that area are helping Anil, having a group of about 30 students. This is a grass-route level work which will open opportunity for contacting the adult family members. This new venture needs prayers.

The church work has also been expanded in Bilaspur area, about 80 miles away from Bareilly in two villages. The Rev. Ratan Paul has been posted there as the resident Minister in charge.

One Elementary school has started functioning at Chowkidanda Malakheti, Nepal, where a new congregation of believers has been adopted. Both congregations and the school are progressing.

The Chapel at Olani, Nepal, is under construction. It took a long time for completion because of various hurdles unexpressable in this concise letter. However, a detailed report is being submitted to our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones.

Our 22nd Annual Convention for the year 1997 was held at Bareilly, October 24-27, wherein 64 Ministers, Deacons,

and Laymen had participated as representatives from all churches in India and Nepal.

At the very outset of the Convention, all stood up in reverence in the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Scott who died on August 30, 1997, and paid tribute to her. She had visited our work in India and Nepal in January, 1994. She will be long remembered by our people. The Convention bowed in thanks to the Board of Foreign Missions for supporting the work of the church in India and Nepal and shaping it on permanent basis in rural as well as urban cities.

The Convention dealt with the routine and regular work pertaining to both countries.

It always seems a unique time of fellowship and matters of mutual discussion, reaction, and action for the growth of the church for the Glory of God.

It was high time that in the midst of the Convention three young men accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and took Baptism by the pastor in charge of Bareilly, the Rev. Sunil C. Lal.

The unprecedented rush of work made me much behind in coping with the same in time. However, better late than never, hence this belated letter.



All Religions Conference for peace and harmony held at our Church on August 10, 1997.



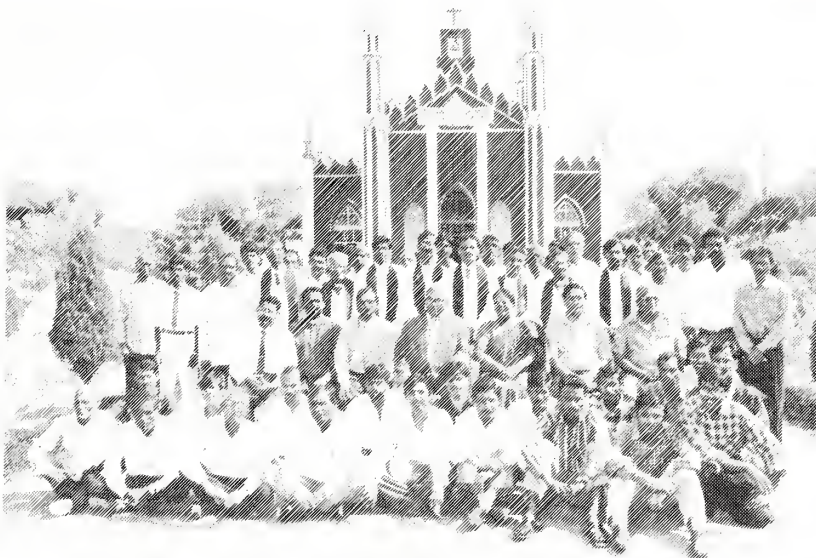
New Work in Pune, Maharashtra, India.



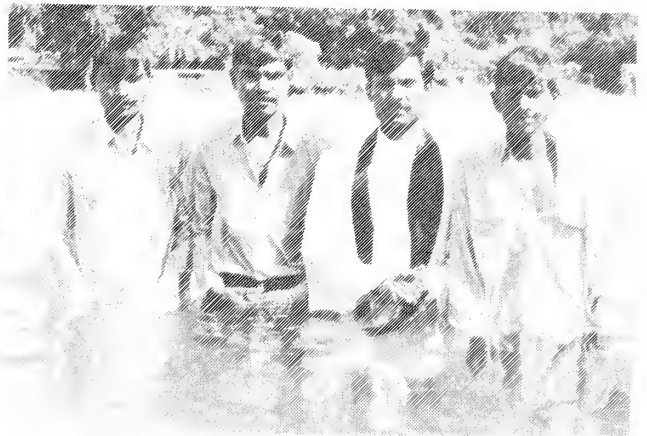
New work started at Bilaspur area.



Elementary School at Chowkidanda Malakheti, Nepal



1997 Convention in Bareilly, India.



New believers baptized.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 1998

And Plan to Attend the

Annual World Missions Conference

Sponsored by the
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Speakers:

Willem and Lydia van der Plas
Missionaries to Eastern Europe

Place:

College Hall, Mount Olive College

Time:

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Schedule:

First Session — 5:00 PM

Light Meal — 6:00 PM

Final Session — 7:00 PM

Special Note:

Willem and Lydia will be in North Carolina for a short time and will only be able to visit a limited number of churches. We, therefore, encourage churches throughout the denomination to call off your Evening Worship Service on March 1 and attend the Mission Conference. This will be a great way to show your support for these dear missionaries. This will be an exciting time of fellowship, worship, and music. Plan now to attend.

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND
BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU. PRAY DAILY
FOR A GREAT CONFERENCE.**

Annual Telethon

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1998

Dear Lord, Help us reach the Philippines, Mexico, Nepal, India, Bulgaria and the nations of the earth.

THEME: "Pray For Them"

THEME CHAPTER: John 17

THEME VERSE: John 17:20

The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions gives us the opportunity to remember the nations of the earth through prayer and giving.

GOAL 1998: A total of \$125,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached, if we ask the Lord to place the peoples of the earth on our hearts and believe Him for the power and means to reach them.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL.

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 PM. Dial (919) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call will stand as testimony of your commitment in prayer and giving to reach the lost in every nation.

**GOD HEARS OUR PRAYER AND SEES OUR GIVING
AND BLESSES US OPENLY**

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS

March 22, 1998

*Prayer for others is the true spirit of intercession and
brings new life to our souls.*

PRAYER GOAL MARCH 22, 1998:

All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival.

Let us pray!



**BOARD OF
FOREIGN MISSIONS**
Post Office Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
919-746-4963



HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

Opportunities and Activities...

For Touching Lives for A Lifetime are available through Home Missions and Evangelism.

Through this ministry Original Free Will Baptists can "give back to America" while Expanding His Kingdom. Remember to participate during the month of April, designated by our Convention as Home Missions and Evangelism Month. Saturday, April 25, 1998, the Harvest Helpers Prayer Retreat will be held; and Sunday, April 26, 1998, is Home Missions and Evangelism Sunday. For more information contact the Home Missions and Evangelism office, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or phone (919) 746-4963.



CARRY THE CARD THAT SHOWS YOU CARE



I'm a registered
**HARVEST
HELPER**

Date _____
(John and Jane Doe)

Decide today to become a partner in PRAYER EVANGELISM (1 Timothy 2:1).

By becoming a Harvest Helper you will be participating in one of the most rewarding ministries of our church.

Join with other Original Free Will Baptists in praying at least (2) minutes a day (5) days a week for the ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism.

By being a Harvest Helper you will be Expanding His Kingdom.

Registration Form — HARVEST HELPER

Yes, I will make a commitment to help *Original Free Will Baptist Home Missions and Evangelism* TO TOUCH LIVES FOR A LIFETIME, by praying at least two (2) minutes each day. (Mail to PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513).

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____ Conference _____

I understand that by making this covenant, I am becoming a **HARVEST HELPER**.

_____ Date

_____ Signature

Jesus Is Concerned About Our Youth — Are You?

Jesus had much concern about our youth and must be grieved to know that so many of today's youth in America are suffering and facing hardships. Many are alone, with numerous health and substance abuse problems, as well as being confronted with all kinds of cults. Worst of all, many will never learn about the Christ who loves them and is so concerned — How about you?

Sponsorship Scholarship — What is it?

Sponsorship scholarship is when an organization of the church or an individual decides to be a friend to a needy H'mong youth.

Your Sponsorship Scholarship will enable a needy youth to attend a Christ-centered summer camp. But each youth will also be helped in preparing for a better future by providing Bible training and special assistance for his or her whole family.

How To Begin

Fill out the attached form and mail to us. The cost of Sponsorship Scholarship is \$50 a year — that's less than \$1.00 a week. Sponsorship can be discontinued at any time. Although we recommend you continue your support each year.

Begin NOW! Join with other Original Free Will Baptists who have discovered the special joy of sponsoring needy youth. The cost is small, yet you can make a big difference in the life of a young person.

Sponsorship Scholarship is a program of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism designed to facilitate lasting Christian development in the lives of needy youth. We believe that the H'mong Youth, when given the opportunity, will have a tremendous impact on their families, churches, and communities.

SPONSORSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

☐ Yes, I/We would like to help a needy youth to attend a Christ-centered summer camp.

I/We would like to provide _____ sponsor scholarship/s at \$50 each. Amount enclosed \$ _____.

Make check payable to: Home Missions and Evangelism for: Sponsorship Scholarship.

Name (Individual or Organization) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

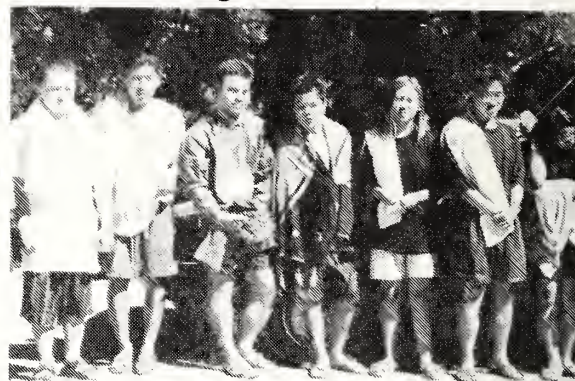
Date _____

Signature _____

Contact
Home Missions And Evangelism
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513

Personal Testimony

Poe Chang — Porterville, OA



Pao Chang, third person from left.

I am a young man, born in a Christian atmosphere but not knowing anything about being a Christian. I guess that I was just born lucky knowing that I was a Christian. And certainly by imitating my parents, plus being a youth leader that has indured and boosted my faith, so I decided to go check out L.E.C. Christian Camp. At first, I was optimistic about the whole trip because it's my first time going and I felt scared. I was afraid I would meet people who were very dogmatic and bossy or even worse. But in spite of all those camp phobia clustering in my head, I've managed to go anyway. As soon as I arrived at the camp site, lining up for registration, I can see that my perception of camp was wrong. I met the most intelligent, caring, and loving L.E.C. Youth Board Officers and the pastor too.

In addition to that, I also met the world's greatest and most loving, caring, sensitive, and sympathetic youth from all over. Sounds too good to be true, huh! But with God anything is possible.

After the first day, I could feel the power of God moving in all directions. I could see His magnificent grace slowly changing everyone's feeling toward one another. As I recollect, each gathering, teachings, sisterly/brotherly relationships plus the banquet are very meaningful and prominent.

As each day arrived and departed rapidly like the mist of a storm, I found out that saying my good-bye and leaving behind what I've found during that week was very emotional to do. What I really found there was a "taste of heaven."

Coming home and getting back to my old routine was stressful. School, homework, and work gets in the way of my relationship with God. So I drift away and from that came trouble and depression. At least doing what I thought was perfect. Things started to get out of control, so here I am desperate in seeking for a solution until God reassures my faith and my relationship with Him. I came to grip, that what I really need was Him, "the Son of God." Ever since I

Cont. on next page

Scouts for Today

With more than four million youth members, the Boy Scouts of America is one of America's most popular youth organizations. Boys join Scouting for one primary reason — to have fun!

A key to Scouting's ongoing success is in the fact that the movement recognizes that a boy's perception of what is fun is constantly changing. In response, the Scouting program has expanded through the years to continuously offer activities and programs that challenge boys both physically and intellectually.

For Scouts today, the Scouting difference is that these boys get the opportunity to experience and explore life to its fullest. Perhaps more importantly, while boys have great experiences in Scouting, they gain much more than fun.

Scouts learn lessons about life, and the value of being a person of character and integrity. These lessons come through spending significant time and sharing experiences with families, Scout leaders, and fellow Scouts.

SCOUTING TEACHES ME TO

- Take better care of the environment
- Get along with others
- Always give your best effort
- Have confidence in yourself
- Set goals for yourself
- Care for other people
- Treat others with respect

PERCENTAGE OF TODAY'S SCOUTS WHO AGREE

- 89%
- 88%
- 87%
- 87%
- 87%
- 86%
- 86%

Boys in Scouting today are keenly aware of the difference Scouting makes in their lives.

Youth Protection Education and Training

The BSA uses a variety of tools to communicate with young people. One of the most important and effective is video. The BSA's award-winning videos on child-abuse prevention help young people recognize dangerous situations and avoid becoming victims. Each video comes with a meeting guide for use by adult leaders who show the videos to youth.

It Happened to Me is designed for Cub Scouts, ages 6 to 10, to view with their parents. The video presents five scenarios of high-risk situations that boys might encounter. It establishes safety rules that help counteract the fear, shame, and confusion that sometimes result from abuse.

A Time to Tell is designed for Boy Scouts 11 to 14. This video depicts the risks of sexual abuse through a series of dramatizations of experiences of adolescent boys.

Both these videos have been widely used in Scouting and outside of Scouting. They have won several awards and are available for television broadcast. Contact your Scouting Commission, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, 919-746-4963.

Summertime Opportunities — Chaplains at Work

Why is a chaplain important to summer camp operations?

Community religious leaders are concerned with providing for the spiritual needs of youth, adult leaders, and staff members while they are at camp. A chaplain is indispensable to summer camp.

What are the duties of a Scout camp chaplain?

- Serves as a counselor to leaders and staff on problems of a personal, interpersonal, general, or spiritual nature
- Counsels individual boys as requested by leaders
- Promotes the religious emblems program
- Conducts devotional periods as scheduled through the program director
- Provides or arranges for suitable worship



services for all campers

- Promotes and encourages respect and tolerance for all faiths
- Helps the camp director and his staff establish and maintain a climate favorable to moral and spiritual growth

Any religious leaders at least 21 years old who are qualified by their denominations may apply. Seminarians or rabbinical students who have completed at least one year of training may be considered. It's a great opportunity for active or retired clergy. If you know of someone who may have an interest in serving as a camp chaplain, contact your Scouting Commission, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, 919-746-4963.

Personal Testimony cont....

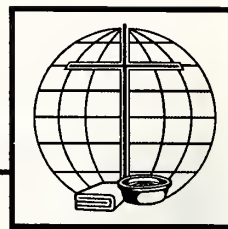
realized my needs, I went back to camp the second time just to get baptized, so I would be a pure and righteous servant in representing God to His

people. I know that I did the right thing because from that day on my life is physically, emotionally, and spiritually balanced.

Thank you Original Free Will Baptists for helping in our L.E.C. Camping Program.

People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT
THE DENOMINATION



Happy New Year from Powhatan

Submitted by Rita Otto Jones

Pastor Appreciation Sunday was November 16, 1997, at Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC. We celebrated with a covered dish meal in our fellowship hall following morning worship. It was also an early birthday party for the Rev. Jim Bogle who turned fifty on November 20.



On Pastor Appreciation Sunday, Jackie Grey and the Rev. Bogle get ready to serve up his birthday cake.

The Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a Pre-Thanksgiving service with a speaker on Wednesday, November 19. Gladys Pounds spoke on "God's Love" and provided a blessing to all. She said Christians should treat everyone with love. She mentioned her sister, Gertie Davis, who is in a rest home in Raleigh. Mrs. Gertie and her husband (now deceased) ran a community store for years just up the road from Powhatan Church. She was always a joy to talk and visit with, and kids loved to go and get penny-candy from Mrs. Gertie. Now her health is failing but her spirit is strong. Mrs. Pounds praised the Lord for being able to come and share her testimony and asked that all pray for one another.

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church in Clayton hosted a community church Thanksgiving singing on November 26. Powhatan's Adult and Youth Choirs attended and performed along with several other area church groups. There was standing room only, and the music and singing was followed by fellowship and refreshments. Absent from the Amelia United Church of Christ choir was its director, Debbe Langdon, and her husband, Benny. Please pray for Rachel, their 10 year-old daughter, who was diagnosed with diabetes that evening and was hospitalized over Thanksgiving at Chapel Hill.

With the arrival of a new year comes new officers taking on duties within our Ladies Auxiliary and in other areas of the church. We pray for strength and wisdom and look forward to the new year with gladness and thankfulness.

Other News from Powhatan

Submitted by Rita Otto Jones

The Willard Benson and Kimery Ard Sunday school classes jointly sponsored a Senior Citizen Supper on Saturday evening, December 6, 1997. The fellowship hall was beautifully decorated with small gifts for all who attended and enjoyed the feast.

A baptism service was held Sunday evening, December 7, with three people being baptized — two young sisters, Nicole and Jessica Souza; and a new father, Johnnie Beasley.

December 14 was the day for a special baby dedication service at Powhatan. Several families stood before the church asking for God's guidance and the church's support in bringing up their children. Children's testaments were given to each child to start them on the right path. Members Nelson and Carol Blinson also donated some special "old" coins to be given to each child in memory of the day of blessing. Those participating in the dedication were Melissa Ann, daughter of Greg and Diana Bass; Heather Marie, daughter of Dan and Lisa Murphy; Christopher Michael, son of Johnnie and Allison Beasley; Andrew Dillon, Joshua James, and Candice Deana, children of Joshua and Michelle Bogle.

The Christmas program was presented on December 21. Thank you to Wanda Benson and Ginger Hill for working together directing the program and to all the cast members, costumers, prop suppliers, singers, etc., for the time and effort given to producing the play and supplying a blessing for all who saw the program.

SPRING STRETCH 1998

**An Exciting Time For
Original Free Will Baptists
Watch your church mailbox
for details!**

1998 Youth Convention

The 1998 Youth Convention will convene May 15-17, 1998, at Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC. The theme for the Convention is "God's Basic Training." The Scripture is Ephesians 6:13: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day...."

Public Speaking Theme is, "God's Basic Training." The Scripture is Ephesians 6:13-18.

All 1998 Competition will be done on the District level with a different scoring system (no State Competition). However, all District first-place winners will perform during the Convention. Each first-place winner will receive a ticket to our pig-picking, 6:00 PM Saturday, May 16, 1998, at Mount Olive College. Then at 7:30 PM there will be a special celebration in the honor of all District First Place Winners. This will be in College Hall. Local church youth leaders please encourage your winners to attend the Convention.

The 1998 Youth Project is Free Will Baptist Children's Home, (Whitley Center, Air Conditioning). The cost is approximately \$18,000.00. If each church would give \$150 we could reach this amount. We, the Executive Committee, encourage the churches to support the youth in this project.

People & Events

ANNOUNCING: STEWARDSHIP STUDY COURSE FOR EASTERN DISTRICT

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention is sponsoring a district study course on "Stewardship" Saturday morning, February 7, 1998, at 10:00, with registration beginning at 9:30 AM. The study will be held at Smith's New Home Free Will Baptist Church (located on Hwy 258 S, about 2 miles from Woodington school, between Kinston and Deep Run).

Teresa Ball, of Grifton, NC, will be our speaker. Mrs. Ball is State Study Course Chairman and registrar for the Cragmont Woman's Conferences. She also held office in both Elm Grove Church and the Central District. In addition to teaching Sunday school, Bible classes at Cragmont and Camp Vandemere Woman's Conferences, and various study courses.

The book to be used is "How To Study The Bible For Yourself," by Tim LaHaye. Mrs. Ball recommends that we read the book prior to the study course, if possible.

Mark this important date on your calendar and bring your Auxiliary members to Smith's New Home on Saturday, February 7, 1998. (In case of an ice storm or snow storm, the study will be shifted to Saturday, February 21). We will dismiss before 12:30, giving us plenty of time to attend our favorite eating places!

Nine Grace Register, Eastern District WAC
Study Course Chairman

REGISTRATION FORM CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

Morning Star

April 17-19, 1998

SPEAKERS: WILLEM AND LYDIA VAN DER PLAS

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

Mail this registration form along with
a \$20.00 deposit to:

Teresa M. Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$30.00 will be due upon
arrival at Cragmont.

Mark your calendar for the weeks of camp: June 8-13 and August 3-8.

People & Events

Graham Crusade Office Opens



"House on the Hill" will serve as office for the Crusade.

Supporters of the Franklin Graham three-day "Festival of Faith" crusade gathered on January 5, 1998, at the old historic Arthur House on 14th Street, Greenville, NC, to officially dedicate and open the headquarters for the upcoming Crusade, scheduled for September 27-29, 1998, at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

Approximately 50 local leaders, including church pastors, elected officials, and East Carolina University representatives gathered for the dedication. The headquarters has three employees and will serve as a meeting place for the eighteen member executive committee. Sherman Barnette of the Billy Graham Evangelist Association, will also have an office here. Anything pertaining to the Crusade will take place here, including mailings and any business dealings. The office number is (919) 413-0925.

Dick Douglas, chairman of the executive committee, in reference to the response of local businesses in donating office furniture and equipment, stated: "It's an amazing outpouring for this thing, and this is just the beginning."



Participating in the ribbon cutting were Dick Douglass (right) and John Grier. Mr. Grier was instrumental in the early planning for the Crusade.

Pray Daily For This Crusade.

1998 Bible Bowl Study Guide

1 Samuel 13:1-15	Samuel rebukes Saul
1 Samuel 16:1-13	Samuel anoints David
1 Samuel 16:14-23	David in Saul's service
1 Samuel 17:1-58	David and Goliath
1 Samuel 18:1-30	Saul's jealousy of David
1 Samuel 19:1-24	Saul tries to kill David
1 Samuel 20:1-42	David and Jonathan
1 Samuel 21:1-15	David at Nob and Gath
1 Samuel 21:1-23	Saul kills the Priests of Nob
1 Samuel 23:1-29	David saves Keilah and flees Saul
1 Samuel 24:1-22	David spares Saul's life
1 Samuel 25:1-44	David, Nabal, and Abigail
1 Samuel 26:1-25	David again spares Saul's life
1 Samuel 27:1-12	David among the Phillistines
1 Samuel 31:1-13	Saul takes his life
2 Samuel 1:1-27	David's lament for Saul and Jonathan
2 Samuel 2:1-17	David anointed King over Judah
2 Samuel 2:18-3:5	War between the houses of David and Saul
2 Samuel 3:6-21	Abner goes over to David
2 Samuel 3:22-39	Joab murders Abner
2 Samuel 4:1-5:5	Ish-Bosheth murdered
2 Samuel 5:6-25	David conquers Jerusalem
2 Samuel 6:1-23	The Ark brought to Jerusalem
2 Samuel 7:1-17	God's promise to David
2 Samuel 7:18-29	David's prayer
2 Samuel 8:18-29	David's victories
2 Samuel 9:1-13	David and Mephibosheth
2 Samuel 10:1-19	David defeats the Ammonites
2 Samuel 11:1-27	David and Bathsheba
2 Samuel 12:1-31	Nathan rebukes David
2 Samuel 14:1-33	Absalom returns to Jerusalem
2 Samuel 15:1-12	Absalom's conspiracy
2 Samuel 15:13-37	David flees
2 Samuel 16:1-14	David, Ziba and Shimei
2 Samuel 16:15-23	Absalom enters Jerusalem
2 Samuel 17:1-14	Hushai's counsel
2 Samuel 17:15-29	David crosses Jordan
2 Samuel 18:1-33	Absalom defeated
2 Samuel 24:1-25	Numbering the people and the plaque
1 Kings 1:1-14	Adonijah
1 Kings 1:15-31	Bathseba intercedes for Solomon
1 Kings 1:32-53	Solomon anointed King
1 Kings 2:1-9	David's Charge to Solomon
1 Kings 2:10-11	Death of David

Memory Verses (Both AFC and YFA)

Psalms 51:1, 4, 10, 12; 55:16; 60:12; 96:1, 4; 105:1-2;
Jeremiah 30: 9; Luke 1:32; Acts 13:22; 1 Samuel 13:14;
2 Samuel 6:14-15; Psalm 23

YFA Only

Psalm 51:6- 7; 1 Sameul 17:3; 2 Samuel 6:15; 7:13; 22:2-4

From the Mailbox

Pastor Available

The Rev. Clifford B. Harwood is available for Supply or Bi-vocational pastorate.

Contact Rev. Clifford B. Harwood
919-242-6218

The Rev. A. B. Bryan, of Wayne County, is available for Pastoral or Supply Work. He is a member, in good standing of the Eastern Conference.

Contact Rev. A. B. Byran
919-736-8998
231 Five Points Road, Dudley, NC. 28333

Notes of Thanks

Mrs. Eunice T. Morris, 500 Pickwick Trail, Apt. 248, Durham, NC 27704, wishes to thank all the individuals, as well as the churches, Sunday schools, and auxiliaries, in North Carolina and Georgia, for all your love, prayers, cards, and gifts during this Christmas season and in 1997. She sends all of you her love, with prayers that God will bless you in 1998 and in all the years to come.

"I wish to express my thanks to everyone who remembered me with cards, prayers, etc., during the past Holiday season. I am grateful to Original Free Will Baptist for all they do for me. May God bless each one." —Kaye Jones, Ayden, NC.

Attention: Churches and Pastors

In an effort to update its information pertaining to the availability of pastors and churches, the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters is seeking to update its file.

Churches that are seeking a pastor, and ministers that are available, are requested to send such information to: The Rev. Ray Wells, President, Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513

(Note: All information will be held in strict confidence, except the sharing with the churches and ministers that make inquiry.)

Convention Executive Committee Begins Process

The Convention Executive Committee has appointed a Search Committee to begin seeking an Executive Administrator. The Search Committee consists of the Revs. Leon Grubbs, (chairman); Jackie Godwin, Harold Swinson.

The Search Committee will begin immediately to receive resumes from those persons that may wish to be considered for this position. The Committee will receive resumes through April 15, 1998.

Please send your resume to: Rev. Leon Grubbs, Route 2, Box 290, Snow Hill, NC 28580.

All resumes will be kept confidential and the final decision will be made by the Executive Committee of the Convention. Please be much in prayer for the Search Committee and the Executive Committee and the decisions they will be making in the coming months.

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QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

1. Purpose

The purpose of this position shall be to establish and maintain an office for the purpose of public relations and promotion within and without the denomination relative to the entire program of the Convention.

2. Qualifications

A. Personal

1. The person shall evidence personal integrity, good moral and ethical behavior and financial responsibility in personal financial management.
2. Shall evidence good character and Christian commitment.
3. Shall evidence personality qualities that will contribute to good interpersonal relationships.
4. Shall evidence sound Christian conviction with the capacity of willingness for open-mindedness and honesty in all deliberations and decisions.
5. Shall be a person given to neatness and good taste in matters of dress and appearance.
6. Shall be willing to do extensive travel given the broad scope of the denomination and its various ministries.

B. Educational

1. The Executive Administrator shall have adequate training and experience in the areas of pastoral and administrative leadership, to include at least a college degree.
2. Shall hold a personal theological position that is generally mainstream of the denomination.
3. Biblical knowledge supportive of an adequate perception and understanding of the denomination should be viewed as an essential part of the educational foundation of the person.

C. Experience

1. The person shall have at least 10 years service as a pastor and/or in an approved Ministry with sufficient evidence of success.
2. Shall have had leadership and/or administrative responsibilities in the larger work of the denomination (Conference or Convention level.)
3. Shall have had involvement in ecumenical endeavors and relations so as to properly relate to interdenominational activities.

3. Responsibilities

A. The Executive Administrator is accountable to the Executive Committee and is responsible for the administration of the Executive Committee work within the framework of such policies as may be approved by the Executive Committee from time to

time. Make reports to committee.

B. Relation to the Executive Committee: Shall attend the meetings of the committee and shall at the direction of the Committee implement such actions and functions of the Committee as they may deem necessary.

C. Planning and Coordination: The Executive Administrator is responsible for the cooperation of the activities, policies, and procedures of the various boards, commissions and committees of the Executive Committee and the Convention. In this role he is to serve as a consultant and keep himself properly informed as to the program and procedures and policies being followed in the various boards, commissions and committees. The Executive Administrator may suggest goals, plans, direction, and programs to the various boards, including the Executive Committee, to centralize our goals and structure for the purpose of building up the Kingdom of God.

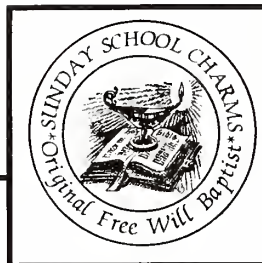
D. Fraternal and Ecumenical: The Executive Administrator shall officially represent the denomination to the larger Christian Community.

E. Program Development: The Executive Administrator shall work to promote and advance the total ministry of the denomination.

4. Specific Responsibilities:

- A. The Executive Administrator is responsible to coordinate with the Recording Secretary in the publication and distribution of the *Yearbook*.
- B. The Executive Administrator is responsible to work with the Recording Secretary in printing and distribution of the Annual Church Letter prior to the Convention.
- C. The Executive Administrator is responsible for compiling and publishing the annual Denominational Report Book.
- D. The Executive Administrator shall seek the cooperation of pastors and churches in maintaining a list of churches seeking pastors and pastors available for service.
- E. The Executive Administrator is responsible for preparing a yearly denominational calendar each year. He shall expect cooperation from various boards, commissions, and committees in its preparation.
- F. The Executive Administrator is responsible for performing such additional functions as may be referred to this office by action of the Convention or Executive Committee. In performance of all his functions, he is authorized to make such delegation of work to qualified office help.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



Celebrating Learning

Mt. Pleasant Original Free Will Baptist Church
Mill Creek, North Carolina

December 28, 1997, was an exciting day in the life of Mt. Pleasant's Sunday School. For approximately a year several of the teachers and the superintendent were involved in study toward certification. The program was offered by Mary Dudley, Executive Director of the Sunday School Ministry. In addition, Dr. A. Graham Lane, Chairman of the Eastern Conference Ministerial Examining Board, is teaching Free Will Baptist history and doctrine. These teachers with the leadership of Mr. Alan Trombley have committed themselves to teaching and learning the Word, building relationships and sharing the "Good News" with others in the Mill Creek community and beyond.

On this Sunday morning, approximately 45 happy people gathered for Sunday School and 65 for Morning Worship to participate in celebration as five teachers and the superintendent were presented certificates in recognition of their completion of the Sunday School Certification program. These are the first to have achieved this standard since the new certification program was adopted. The following people received Certificates of Completion:



These folks are to be congratulated for their vision and commitment to the growth of Mr. Pleasant Original Free Will Baptist Church in Carteret County. Already there are signs of good things to come. For under the leadership of the Reverend Franklin Robbins, Pastor and Mr. Trombley, Sunday School Superintendent, attendance is increasing.



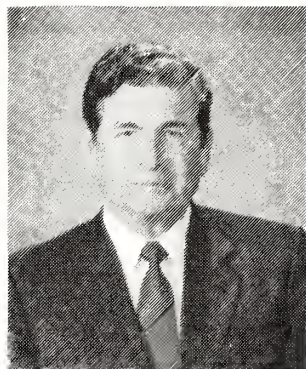
Mr. Alan Trombley, Superintendent
Mrs. Rhonda Trombley, Teacher
Mrs. Tanis Smith, Teacher
Mrs. Kay Whaley, Teacher
Mrs. Johnise Culpepper, Teacher
Mr. Gary Culpepper, Teacher



WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

Information, Inspiration and Planning for Senior Citizens

"We have the wolf by the ears and we can neither hold him nor safely let him go" (Thomas Jefferson).



Dr. W. Burkette Raper
President Emeritus

The problems faced by senior citizens can be even more difficult than those we faced in our youth. With the passing of the years, life can become increasingly complex. The requirements of our work, the needs of our family, and the demands of our personal lives can all converge upon us with such force and urgency that they paralyze us.

With a multiplicity of things crying out for immediate attention, it can be hard to know where to begin. Since we cannot just sit and hope that the problems will go away, let us consider some things we might do even when we do not know what to do.

We Can Free Ourselves from the Tyranny of Time

Not withstanding all our technology and time-saving devices, we are still the most rushed generation in history. With a watch on our wrist and a calendar in our pocket, we feel compelled to measure everything by time.

Most of the things, however, that paralyze us with a demand for immediate action may not be as urgent or as important as we think. The late President Dwight Eisenhower is credited with having said, "Urgent things are seldom important, and important things are seldom urgent."

There are times when we need to ask whether the time frames we set for ourselves or those imposed on us are as important as they seem. What would really happen if some — or all — of the things we feel must be done today were not done? Are the benefits of being constantly driven by stress enough to compensate for the damage done to our health or to our relationship with family and friends?

Try going out at night, looking up and asking the stars: "How long have you been there?" We might also ponder the question God asked Job: Where were you "when the morning stars sang together?" (Job 38:7). Or take a look at nature and see if there is any evidence that God ever gets in a hurry? Yet, he seems to always get his work done!

We Can Put Distance Between Us and The Sources of Our Pressure.

As I reflect over my busy years, I credit in large measure the preservation of my health of body, mind and spirit to those times when I put some distance between me and the pressures which often threatened to destroy me. In preparing this issue of *The Golden Years*, I came across some thoughts I recorded several years ago at one of my favorite retreat sites:

"Here Eternity stands still,
surrounded by the everlasting hills and
the infinity of the heavens.

Yet it is only for a moment
that all the forces of nature cast their arms
around me and
provide a shield from the unrelenting tide of
time.

I look up and draw strength from the majesty
of God's creation:
and in an unhurried passage of time
I experience peace and healing.

Here I would stay in time and place,
but the earth turns on its axis
and moves on in its orbit.
The shadows lengthen and the evening
comes.

The past brought me to this moment
but the future calls me to another, and
I must go now.

How many times have I heard those words before:

"We must go now."

We Can Seek Divine Guidance

The struggle to put our lives together begins early and never ends. Regardless of our age or health: irrespective of our social, political, business, or professional standing: and not withstanding our financial resources or even our religious status — there are times when our

Gleanings from the 1958 Issues of *The Free Will Baptist*.

J.O. Fort, manager of the Free Will Baptist Press announces the employment on January 1, 1958, of the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow of Lucama, NC to become head of the department of public relations and sales promotion of the institution. In addition to his office duties, he will travel for the institution doing field work.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

More than 400 delegates, ministers, and visitors attended the special session of the North Carolina Free Will Baptist Convention which met at Mount Olive College on January 31. All available seats were taken and many delegates were crowded in adjoining classrooms or left standing in the corridors.

The Convention voted unanimously to launch a campaign to raise a half million dollars for the college during the next three years.

President W. Burkette Raper declared, "This interest manifested at this Convention is the greatest vindication Free Will Baptists have yet given Mount Olive Junior College. We know that our people are going to accept the challenge of providing Christian higher education for the youth of our denomination."

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Dedication services of the Elm Grove Church and parsonage, Route 1, Ayden, NC, were held on Easter Sunday, April 6, at 11:00 AM. The present pastor, the Rev. J. C. Lynn, a native of Durham, delivered the sermon. Mr. Harry Jarvis read the church history during the dedication services, and Mrs. J. C. Moye rendered special music.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

A new office building was completed recently at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, NC, at a cost of approximately \$8,000. The building is being sponsored and paid for by the French Board Association of North Carolina. The alumni of the Children's Home is sponsoring the furnishing of the reception room and board of director's room at the cost of approximately \$1,000.

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

wisdom and strength are inadequate. When our duties and responsibilities become like the wolf and we feel unable to manage them but afraid to let them go, it is time to let loose from everything — except God.

Before he became king of Israel. David found himself in a situation where everything had gone wrong. Forced to leave his own country, he sought refuge among the Philistines. Coming home one day, he found his house burned and his family taken prisoners of war. His supporters blamed him for the disaster that had befallen them and were threatening his life. David was without country, home, family, or friends, but in his distress he sought divine guidance. The Bible tells

us that he "inquired of the Lord" and "found strength in the Lord his God" (1 Samuel 30:6, 8).

What do we do when we do not know what to do? First, it is a good practice to avoid making major decisions when we are overly tired or under pressure. Next, we can free ourselves from the tyranny of time and put distance between us and the sources of stress. Above all, we can seek divine guidance. Long ago a great spiritual leader wrote: "How gracious He (God) will be when you cry for help! As soon as He hears, He will answer you... your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it," (Isaiah 30:19, 20 NIV).

THE CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP

THE ESSENCE OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

by Marvin Waters

In *Your Church Has Real Possibilities!*, Robert Schuller tells of his working part-time in a local church while a seminary student. On a particular occasion the senior pastor told him, "Never forget that you are a servant of the Church and not its master." The senior pastor went on to describe the Church Board as the leadership group, and concluded his advice by admonishing the young pastor-to-be to carry out the orders of the Church Board faithfully if he would be successful as a pastor. Schuller mentions how he was initially impressed by such misguided advice. Taking a look across the gap, he remembered some of board meetings. In particular, he remembered sitting in a meeting where the "leadership" (the Board) spent two hours discussing whether or not they should buy a new sump pump for the basement of the church. He concludes, "[I]t is incomprehensible that twenty-five minds could spend two hours wrestling over such a petty decision!"¹

Similarly, Ten W. Engstrom tells of a friend who visited a pastor who happened to be washing the church windows. When asked what he was doing, the minister gave a tragic response: "I do everything myself (to demonstrate his self-sacrificing). I run off my own bulletins. I wash the windows of the church. I put out the hymn books. I do everything. This way I know it is done properly." Engstrom poses the question, "[W]as that minister a leader in the best sense?"²

Most of us have been there. Priding ourselves with the fact that we believe in congregational government, we ignore the crucial distinction between congregational government and congregational chaos. Congregational government assumes a strong leader. Congregational chaos is fueled by inept leadership. At other times our self-professed "servanthood" is little more than an excuse for our refusal to train (or even allow) others to share in the tasks of ministry in the church.

The question is ever before us: What constitutes effective leadership? The literature on leadership abounds. Books have been written on leadership skills, leadership styles, the price of leadership, etc.. I have heard authors speak of leadership by comparing the minister to a coach or to a professor. My question was, "Which is it?" You can understand why, in light of the confusion, why the entire matter of leadership has become somewhat complicated.

Having been asked by my mentor in ministry to write a brief essay on leadership, it becomes my turn to further complicate the issue(s). I'll try not to do so. As I think of the leaders who have touched my life, three concepts stand out:

I. *Leadership Is Learning*. There is much to learn. Dr. W. Burkette Raper in a Free Will Baptist Church History class (some twenty years ago!) told us, "Ladies and gentlemen, we have a crisis in the Free Will Baptist Church. The pew has risen above the pulpit." He went on to explain that our laity are more educated than our ministers. It is tragic that the State requires more from a school teacher than the Church requires of its pastor. Our steady decline in numerical growth has its counterpart with the educa-

tional level of our ministers. Dare I be so blunt? Yes. An effective leader is always reading. Always studying. Always stretching his/her mind.

II. *Leadership Is Listening*. Much has been made of the communication skills of an effective leader. Unfortunately, little has been written on the fine art of listening as an element of effective communication. Our inability to listen to others is a short path to the destruction of human relationships. All of us can point to role models from the past. Usually we remember them as people who would "hear us out." They were willing to hear what we had to say. They were willing to feel our pain. They created an environment which encouraged others to speak. They listened attentively. I have a suspicion that those who best listen to others are those who best listen to God.

III. *Leadership Is Loving Others*. Tired of hearing it? Love is the last word. "For though I speak with the tongue of men and even angels...if I have not love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell...love is eternal." (see 1 Corinthians 13:1,8 TEV).

Perhaps a new paraphrase is in order:

Though I become the kind of leader who gives minimum direction and provides maximum freedom for group decisions (*laissez-faire*), or though I become a leader who puts the emphasis on participation of the collective (*democratic-participative*), or though I become benevolent-autocratic in my leadership style (so much so that everybody just wants to call me "dad") and have not love, it profits me nothing. For that matter, it profits no one else either.

With all that you have read and heard about leadership, I hope you will not forget these three thoughts. Dedicate yourself to a life of *learning, listening to, and loving others. Though we are all different, the Christian leader can adopt nothing less as his goal.*

NOTES

¹Schuller, Robert H. *Your Church Has Real Possibilities!* Gendale, CA: G/L Publications, 1976.

²Engstrom, Ted W. *The Making of a Christian Leader*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1976.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Marvin Waters

Born: August 28, 1953, **Wife:** Peggy Stockes Waters, **Children:** Charlotte and Amy, **Education:** Mount Olive College; Barton College (Rel. & Phil.); ECU, Masters in Counseling, North Carolina Central, Juris Doctor JD., **Denominational Service:** Trinity, Shiloh, Albermarle, St. Mary's, Eastern, Wooten's Chapel (Cape Fear). Served on the Foreign Mission Board, The Articles of Faith Revising Committee., **Membership:** St. Mary's, New Bern, **Ordained:** 1973 - Albermarle Conference, **Law Clerk:** Browne and Flebotte



Dr. Pepper Worthington

DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Donald K. Berry. *An Introduction of Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

Introduction

Dr. Berry views the books of Psalms, Song of Songs, and Lamentations as the poetry books of the Bible. He uses Laurence Perrine's definition of poetry as language which "says more and says it more intensely than does ordinary language" (174). The poetic language includes numerous features: "denotation and connotation, imagery, figurative language (metaphor, personification, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, overstatement, understatement, and irony), allusion, meaning of idea, tone, musical devices, rhythm and meter, sound and meaning, and pattern" (174).

The Poetry of Psalms

According to Dr. Berry, Psalms "served as temple liturgies which through prayer, penitence, or requests for deliverance offered praise to Yahweh" (357). Of the 120 psalms, 116 have headings which include "David, (the most common) the Korahites, Asaph, Moses, Solomon, Herman and Ezrahite, and Ethan the Ezrahite" (359).

Hermann Gunkel determined the six types of psalms: "the individual lament, the corporate lament, the thanksgiving song, the hymn, royal psalms, the wisdom psalms" (361).

The Five Books of Psalms

Dr. Berry also notes that there are five books of the Psalter. Book 1 (1–41) contains David's psalms. Book 2 (42–72) reveals the characteristics which unify the collection, especially the characteristic of using the divine name, Elohim, rather than Yahweh. Book 3 (73–89) exhibits corporate laments and contains mostly the psalms of Asaph. Book 4 (90–106) includes some of our hymns. Book 5 (107–150) contains hymns and laments.

Hymns

According to Dr. Berry, "The hymn directs praise to Yahweh for his providence" (346). In Psalms, the traits of the hymn includes the following: (1) an appreciation for God's eternal mercy and greatness; (2) a call to praise; (3) reasons for praising God; (4) a call to return to God and His dependability (365).

Hymns often lend themselves to performance so that the King, the people, and the Priest participate.

Images In Psalms

Among the poetic images in Psalms are these: (1) the righteous are trees; the wicked are chaff; (2) Yahweh fights like a warrior; (3) God's greatness is like a thunderstorm; (4) God uses arrows in His wrath; (5) people are like sheep; (6) enemies are howling dogs; (7) the sea and mountains flee like sheep at God's appearance (368–377).

Conclusion

The power of poetry in Psalms brings together the history of a people, an emotional response of a community and a liturgical enactment (206). The importance of poetry lay in its power to "tap into divine ability and authority" (219).

An Introduction to Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON

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The Free Will Baptist

March 1998



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C. H. Overman

A Flood of Opinions

America's airwaves are filled with talk shows. Some of the personalities are famous, some are not. There may be only one person, or there may be two or more persons involved in the discussion, ranging from political issues to the rights of children. In some cases the public can get in on it by phone. There's talk radio and talk TV. It's the trend — the "in thing." Most definitely it is profitable to the media industry, and to be so these programs must attract multitudes of listeners, or participants, as they might be called. We sometimes wonder why we are so caught up in so many subjects, in which it seems no one has the answers. We also wonder about the value of the opinions of all these people. Is everyone an expert these days? What is to be gained in polluting ourselves with the airing of others' dirty laundry? Does the whole world need to know about Sally's unfaithfulness or John's hidden secret? Nowadays, however, most anything goes. I suppose it's all a matter of "free expression," with the opinion of many being, "I can say what I feel, or think."

There is still the matter of *right* and *wrong*. The fact is, however, some things are wrong and it's not a matter of our opinions. The vast majority, or our leaders, may flout the Laws of God and live sensually, but that doesn't make it right. We are not little gods unto ourselves, always making up our own rules to life, and then changing them to satisfy our fleshly whims.

Opinion is "...a belief or conclusion held with confidence but not substantiated by positive knowledge or proof" (*The American Heritage College Dictionary*). We all have opinions, and we may at times evade positive knowledge and proof with our opinions. A strong statement of positive conviction is off times rejected with the response, "That's your opinion." When the Christian states, for example, his/her belief in the Bible as God's inspired Word, some one concludes that it's a matter of opinion. Beliefs in the truths of God are not simply matters of opinion; they are matters of faith, of positive knowledge. Morality, virtues, character, spirituality, etc., are rooted in truths and principles laid down by God, for our good and for His glory.

As believers, it is not just our opinion that Genesis 1:1 is true; it's our belief. It's not our opinion that the Ten Commandments are God's Law governing man's relationship to his Maker and his relationship to humankind; it's our belief. It's not a matter of opinion that God requires faithfulness to both His moral and spiritual laws, and through disobedience, consequences will follow; it's our belief because that's what the Bible teaches.

With the openness and discussion about matters of

immorality, we sometimes conclude that we have reached the level of the antediluvians of Noah's day, or the Sodomites of Lot's

day. The devil must surely be having his heyday to know that many have concluded, "everybody's doing it (whatever 'it' may be); therefore it must be OK," or "it's the trend, and I don't want to be different." Let's remember that we can be sincere about our opinions, but we can be sincerely wrong. Saul of Tarsus thought he "...ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth" (Acts 26:9). After his Damascus Road experience, and after becoming the Apostle Paul, he knew he had been wrong, although he had been sincere in his belief that the Christian movement should be stamped out and he thought he was doing God a favor.

It sometimes seems that we have already drowned in the cesspool of immorality, with so many succumbing to the appeal of human desire. As Judah in Jeremiah's day, we bear little or no shame concerning our "abominations," and we no longer blush because of our sins (see Jeremiah 6:15 and 8:12). In spite of how things seem, in spite of the many polls and surveys that have been conducted, I believe the majority of America's people still believe in high moral values and standards, that character still counts, and that God still honors family values and the dignity of human life. I believe that those in places of leadership, whether high or low places, have a responsibility to set the standards that others will admire and thus follow. Let us stand firm in our Christian beliefs and practices, for God will surely raise up the leaders and role models that will set the standard in honesty and character.

Followers of Christ must not despair, for the Bible has forewarned us of such a time — a time of apostasy, or falling away, a time of false Christs and false teachings, a time "...when men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:2-5).

Christian doctrine and practices are not based on opinions, but on faith and belief. Therefore, let us remain steadfast in His Word, for it is truth that sets us free from the "flood of opinion" that would drown our faith.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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NEXT MONTH

*April is
Home Missions
and Evangelism
Month*

*March
is
Foreign Missions
Month*

General Baptist Confessions of Faith A Part of Our Heritage

by Dr. Michael Pelt

A BRIEF
CONFESSION
OR
DECLARATION
OF
FAITH:

Set forth by many of us, who are (falsely)
called ~~Ana-Baptists~~, to inform all Men
(in these dayes of scandal and reproach) of our inno-
cent Belief and Practise; for which we are not on-
ly resolved to suffer Persecution, to the loss of
our Goods, but also Life it self, rather
than to decline the same.

It seems that every new movement in the history of Christianity has found it necessary at some point to define itself in order to better inform its constituency and to declare its mission and purpose to the larger society of which it was a part. This was especially true in the history of Protestant churches. Almost as soon as Protestant groups were formed on the European Continent in the 16th century by breaking ties with the Roman Catholic Church, their leaders or representatives would sit down together to set forth the reasons for their action and to write a declaration of religious beliefs. Such declarations were usually called confessions of faith, of which the Augsburg

Confession, a Lutheran document, was among the earliest (1530). Other Protestant groups in Switzerland, France, Holland, and England followed this example.

Those responsible for the beginnings of the English General Baptist movement in the early 17th century also felt obliged to define themselves by preparing statements of their religious beliefs. When John Smyth, pastor of a Separatist congregation that had fled from England to Holland to escape further persecution, found himself facing difficult questions following his rejection of infant baptism which he and others had received in the Church of England, leading to his decision to baptize himself and members of his congregation rather than to seek believer's baptism at the hand of the Dutch Mennonites, he prepared a "Short Confession in Twenty Articles." At the time he prepared this confession he had become convinced that he had acted improperly, likely as a result of his conversations with the Mennonites, who persuaded him that he should have sought baptism by their elders. Had there been no true church to which he could have turned for believer's baptism, he reasoned that he would have been justified in his action of making a new beginning for a true church of Christ. For this reason he felt obliged to begin the process of seeking admission to the Dutch Mennonite Church.

Not all of Smyth's congregation were in agreement with his desire to unite with the Mennonites. A group of about ten members, under the leadership of Thomas Helwys, took issue with Smyth, arguing against his conclusion that he should have sought baptism by the Mennonites as if the validity of baptism was somehow dependent upon the old ideas of apostolic succession. Such ideas they had abandoned when they separated themselves from the Church of England.

Nevertheless, Smyth and his followers persisted in their attempts to gain admission to the Mennonite communion, which was finally accomplished after Smyth himself had died. In order to define their position in the midst of this controversy Thomas Helwys and his group prepared "a Declaration of Faith of English People Remaining in Holland." Although this statement of faith was chiefly the work of Helwys, an educated layman, he acknowledged the help of other members of this little flock. One of its purposes was to distinguish this group from the Mennonites, with whom they

differed on such points as whether a Christian should take oaths, bear arms, participate in government, or avoid social contact with those excommunicated from the church. Helwys and his group had concluded that it was the duty of a church of Christ to bear witness to the truth and for this reason they should not remain in exile in Holland but should return to their native England in order to persuade others among their countrymen of the rightness of their cause. Therefore, at considerable risk to their own personal safety, in 1611 they returned to England and settled in the vicinity of London to form the first Baptist church on English soil. Because of their belief in the general atonement, that Christ died for all persons and not simply for the *elect*, they became known as General Baptists. Their confession of faith, which they had published in English in Amsterdam, continued to serve their needs as new congregations were formed and the movement began to take root in areas beyond London and its vicinity.

These General Baptists would have to defend their views against those of the vast majority of English citizens, not only because of their rejection of infant baptism, which in the view of most citizens of the realm identified them with the despised Ana-baptists on the continent, but also because they had later adopted the view that baptism should be by immersion or 'dipping' as many referred to this practice. Furthermore, they differed with the growing number of English Puritans who believed in divine election, predestination, limited atonement, and irresistible grace. Thus they were but a small sect who found themselves outside of the National Church and subject to persecution by the authorities. Helwys himself was soon imprisoned for publishing his views on religious liberty after returning to England and later died in prison.

Their fortunes began to change somewhat in 1642 when the nation found itself locked in the grip of a civil war between the supporters of Parliament and the supporters of royal supremacy represented by Charles I. The army raised by Parliament included Baptists and other sectaries that flourished in this period of civil conflict, which allowed more religious freedom than such groups had previously enjoyed. Oliver Cromwell became the leader of this army of commoners, many of them religious enthusiasts, and when Parliament began to insist on conformity to a rigid Presbyterian model of the church which this ruling body had earlier approved, the army demanded a greater degree of toleration of dissent. In the end Cromwell's "Model Army"

put down all opposition' dismissed Presbyterians from Parliament, and declared England a Protectorate and himself as Lord Protector. Under his rule a more inclusive church establishment prevailed and a large degree of toleration was allowed. This gave Baptists, along with other minority religious groups like the Quakers, Diggers, Seekers, etc., more freedom to propagate their views and to increase their numbers. However, there were many Englishmen who objected to Cromwell's military style rule.

In this period of the Protectorate both General and Particular Baptists formed local associations of churches and put forth several confessions or declarations of faith in order to define themselves and to make known to others their religious beliefs and practices. The rise of so many divergent groups with their conflicting truth claims was unsettling to many Englishmen, who were accustomed to an established church and who began to yearn for a restoration of the monarchy under Charles II, who was now living in exile, and a return to the old order. This desire became even more urgent following the death of Oliver Cromwell in 1659 and the failure of his son to provide strong leadership needed to prevent the nation from falling into anarchy.

In the midst of this confusion and longing for stability, Baptists were often charged with seeking to subvert the nation, plotting to overthrow the government and undermining both church and civil authorities, even desiring to "murder and destroy" those who differed with them in matters of religion. It was a time of suspicion and mistrust, directed especially against groups like the General Baptists who had been outside the established church as well as England's ruling class. In such a time it was easy for many to believe that General Baptists might not support a move to restore the monarchy and that they might foment another revolution that would bring more bloodshed to a nation that had grown weary of civil strife.

It was against this background that the General Assembly of General Baptists met in London in March 1660 and approved "A Brief Confession or Declaration of Faith," signed by forty prominent ministers and laymen belonging to this body. A reading of this important document, which appears as Appendix A in the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the General Baptist Heritage)*, makes it clear that its authors were anxious to put to rest the suspicions and unwarranted charges against General Baptists and to represent this body of Christians as holding to the truth of the gospel and willing to suffer

Almost as soon as Protestant groups were formed their leaders or representatives would sit down together to set forth the reasons for their action and to write a declaration of religious beliefs.

It was a time of suspicion and mistrust, directed especially against groups like the General Baptists who had been outside the established church as well as England's ruling class.

persecution rather than abandoning their beliefs and practices out of fear of the loss of possessions or even life itself. In Article 24 of this confession there is one of the clearest statements to be found in the 17th century in favor of liberty of conscience in matters of religion. In the last article the authors were especially concerned to refute any rumors that they were plotting violent action against those who disagreed with them. They were ready to bear the reproaches cast against them if only they might have the liberty to exercise their beliefs. Doubtless they hoped that under a restored monarchy there might be a continuation of the liberties they had so recently enjoyed and for this reason they presented a copy of this Confession to King Charles II on July 26, 1660. Unfortunately their hopes were not to be realized, for within a short time a newly elected Parliament would be swayed by a reaction against Puritanism and a desire to restore the Anglican Church much as it had existed in the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I. New laws were enacted that placed severe restrictions on all dissenting groups including Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, and others.

The "Brief Confession" of 1660 was slightly revised in 1663 and in that form became known as the Standard Confession among General Baptists. Its importance for Free Will Baptists is that it was brought to North Carolina by General Baptists around 1700 or earlier and that it continued to serve as their statement of religious beliefs until it was revised by Jesse Heath and James Roach in 1812 on behalf of the conference and subsequently approved by the conference of which these men were leading ministers. This revision, known as "The 1812 Former Articles," appears as Appendix B in the above mentioned text. It served Original Free Will Baptists until well into the 20th century. Such confessions of faith are an essential element in the ongoing life of a body of Christians, for they serve to inform the faithful and to declare to the world the beliefs and practices of that religious body.

SOURCES:

Michael R. Pelt. *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*. Mount Olive, NC: Mount Olive College Press, 1996.

W. L. Lumpkin. *Baptist Confessions of Faith*. Philadelphia: The Judson Press, 1959.

"Lord, make us towel and basin people..."

by NCC Bishop Marion Edwards

(Reprinted from *North Carolina Christian Advocate*,
November 4, 1997.)

There is a difference between choosing to serve and choosing to be a servant. Richard J. Foster, the Quaker author of *Celebration of Discipline*, keenly makes that distinction: "When we choose to serve we are still in charge. We decide whom we will serve and when we will serve...But when we choose to be a servant, we give up the right to be in charge. There is great freedom in this...When we choose to be a servant, we surrender the right to decide whom and when we will serve." Jesus models this for us in John 13:1-7 when he takes a towel and basin and washes the feet of his disciples.

Luke tells us that the twelve disciples entered the room of the Last Supper, where Jesus would wash their feet, arguing about who among them was the greatest. They were on the eve of the greatest sacrifice in history. Yet they entered the room arguing about who was the greatest (Luke 22:24). It is obvious that they were certainly in no mood to wash one another's feet.

Jesus gave them the shock of their lives! It is a shock that still reverberates through history, right down to this very hour. He stripped himself to a loin cloth like a lowly slave. He tied a long towel around his waist. It was so long that he could gird himself with it and use the free end. He went to the large copper basin found in Oriental houses for the water and he began to wash their feet.

What a great chasm between the thought of Jesus and the thoughts of His disciples! They did not understand immediately what Jesus had done. They would later gain knowledge of it by slow experience. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, when they had a full knowledge of his Person and Work, they would understand what it was for the resurrected and ascended Son of God to have washed their feet. The one who lay aside His garments also lay aside His life. The one who washed their feet with water would wash away their sins with the blood of His cross.

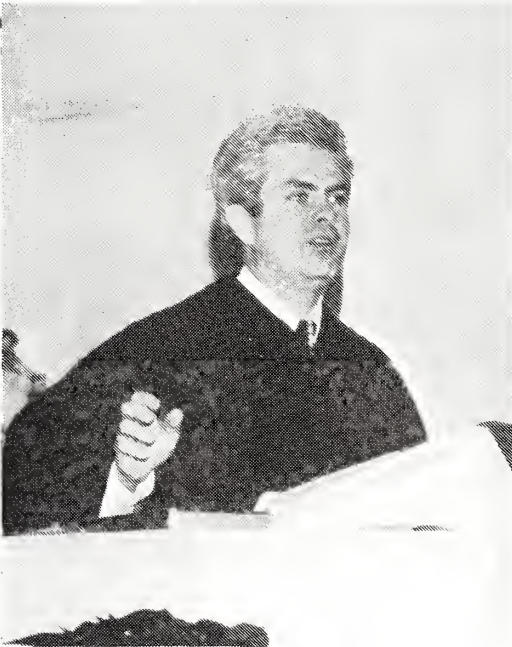
Ever since that momentous moment each act of Christian service by you and me points away from and beyond itself to Jesus' ultimate act of service on the Cross. This is what keeps us from merely BEING DO-GOODERS. Our Christian service is not just a list of things we do. It is one thing to choose to serve; it is another thing to choose to be a servant.

God calls us to be "towel and basin" people modeling the servanthood of Jesus Christ. God help me to be a "towel and basin" bishop. Anything less is a prostitution of the office!

Kinston First Burns Note In Special Service

by Nina Grace Register

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Kinston, NC, celebrated its debt-free status by burning the note on its Fellowship Building with a special service at the morning worship service on Sunday, December 28, 1997. Dr. K. David Hines, former pastor, presented the morning message on "Building Church Bodies." He also sang "Thank You," by Ray Boltz, and assisted with the burning of the note.



Dr. K. David Hines

Pastor Tony Parrish relayed a message from the note, showing how it had been good for the church by uniting the members in a common cause, bringing them into a closer fellowship, and showing them that they could accomplish much for the Lord by working together.

Those who helped to burn the note were local pastor, the Rev. Tony Parrish; Dr. Hines; Stanley Jenkins; Pete Horton; Charles McLawhorn; Hubert Waters; Robert Merritt; and Annie Belle Hines Pinson.

The local congregation moved to its present location at the corner of Lenoir Avenue and College Street with a deed from the Presbyterian Church dated November 9, 1957. When more room was needed, they purchased the adjoining property from Mrs. Mamie

Webb on December 20, 1961. That building became "home" to the Boy Scout Troop, several Sunday school classes, and Vacation Bible School for several years. The house was later razed to make room for parking.

The Grady house, adjoining the Webb property, became available in August of 1971 and several members of the church bought it to make it available to the church. On April 27, 1979, it was conveyed to the trustees of the church. The Association for Retarded Citizens of Lenoir County used it for a day care and educational center, and some Brotherhood meetings were held there. When that space was needed for a Fellowship Building and the city would not allow the Grady house to be moved to other church property, some of it was salvaged before it was turned over to local firefighters. They used it for smoke and rescue training for City and County Fire Departments, eventually burning it as further training. They also cleaned up the lot.

The first Building and Planning Committee consisted of C. J. Wiley, Chairman, Vickie Wade, Nettie Jenkins, and Mary Dudley, appointed in 1986 or 1987. In 1987 Stanley Jenkins joined them and worked with the Rev. Walter Reynolds and the Church Finance Association.

The site was dedicated after lunch on Woman's Day, May 5, 1985. The pastor at that time was the Rev. K. David Hines, who conducted that service. He was succeeded by the Rev. T. Bruce Dudley, who enthusiastically embraced the project and did much work on it himself, assisting the contractors and lay persons who were involved. The building was designed in a style to blend with the Educational Building and the Church and in keeping with Mitchelltown Historic District guidelines.

The deed of trust to Church Finance Association was signed in

June of 1988. The first payment was made July 1, 1988, and the last payment was made on October 22, 1997, — nine years, three months, and twenty-two days before the loan reached its full term. This was accomplished by a plan devised by the Finance Committee and the present pastor, in which members pledged certain amounts to be paid before the church observes its Centennial Anniversary in the year 2000; and by fund-raisers supported by the Woman's Auxiliary and the Layman's League.

Much equipment for the building was donated by members. Items included the stove, deep fryer, paving for the parking lot, shrubbery and landscaping, tables and chairs, drapes, refrigerator, freezer, and microwave. A plaque hangs on the wall of the Fellowship Building listing most of the items and the donors.

The church gives God the credit for this accomplishment, and remembers with gratitude the people who have given so generously to make the Fellowship Building a reality and to provide comfort and pleasure for the congregation now and in the future.



Pictured (L-R): Pete Norton, Pastor Tony Parrish, Dr. K. David Hines, and Stanley Jenkins.

Camp Vandemere

Our Family Enrichment Center

Nestled on the banks of the beautiful Bay River in Pamlico County, is a camp that is one of the most serene places you could ever hope to visit.

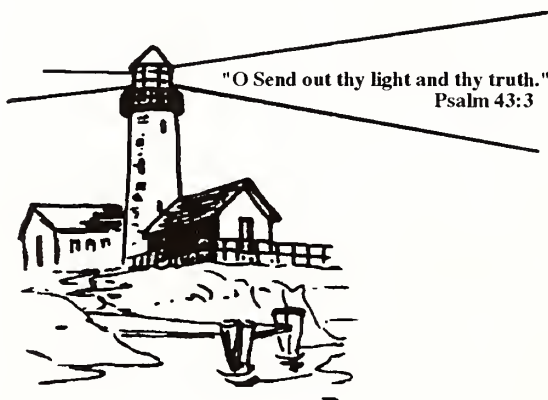
Our church, Memorial Free Will Baptist at Chocowinity, has been going down for an annual spiritual retreat each fall for over twenty years. The first time we ever went for a weekend, the only building there was the old Gillikin house. The females slept in the house, and there was a large, striped circus tent erected on the grounds with cots inside, and this was the "male dormitory." This tent was not in the best state of repair, and had a few holes here and there. Some of our young girls found a hole in one side and ran a water hose inside the hole and completely doused the cot that Richard Potter had prepared to sleep on that night! As it happened, my parents were living in a mobile home on the campgrounds at the time, and my mother graciously loaned Richard some dry sheets so he could prepare another cot to sleep on.

A few years later, after the addition of the two large buildings, which house the kitchen, auditorium, and dorms for males and females, Edith Cayton and I were privileged to go down for a couple of summers as counselors — and this was quite an experience. We happened to be there the summer that Elvis Presley died, and since we had no television or radio, we didn't even know about it until my husband arrived early that night. Since he's quite a prankster, Edith and I were sure he was not telling us the truth about Elvis being dead!

One summer that we were there, Rev. Sumner held a worship service in the "chapel" of the Gillikin house, and several young people were saved, including our daughter Sabrina and our niece Ann Marie.

Camp Vandemere is truly a wonderful place to send youngsters to camp, and I would encourage you to start planning right now to enroll your church young people for one of the available weeks.

A lot of facilities have been added over the years, so Camp Vandemere is not only for the young people, but for the older people as well. If you don't like the "camping out" atmosphere, try the Family Lodge. You have all the comforts of a motel room at a much better price, and can wake up to the sun rising over the water as you step out on the deck.



There is a nice pier on the property that you can use for fishing, as well as camper hook-ups if you own a camper. Camp Vandemere is truly a place for everyone. Try it — you might like it.

Lexa E. Upton

SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR 1998

April 18	Clean Up Day
May 22-25	Youth Mission Retreat Ray and Ginny Conner, Director 167 Holly Springs Road Newport, NC 28570 919-223-4750
June 1-5	Open
June 5 & 6	Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat
June 8-12	Ralph Sumner, Director 571 Sumner Road Pink Hill, NC 28572 910-298-5885
June 15-19	Stanley Buck, Director 3200 Western Blvd. Tarboro, NC 27886 919-823-3964
June 22-26	Women's Week Audrey Quinn and Judith Kennedy, Directors 2356 Wintergreen Road Cove City, NC 28523 919-638-6406
June 29- July 3	Jason Modlin, Director 634 Henderson Street Mount Olive, NC 28365 919-658-7170
July 6-10	Eva Mae Clark, Director 465 Half Moon Road New Bern, NC 28560 919-637-5346
July 13-17	Joe Ratcliff, Director 6280 US Hwy 17N Vanceboro, NC 28586 919-244-0207
July 27-31	Open
August 3-7	Open
August 8	All Day "Singin' By The River"

To schedule a week of camp, a week-end retreat or any other time at Camp Vandemere, please call Aldric Gaskins, Manager, at 919-637-4949 or 919-745-3171.

Camp Vandemere's

HOOPS FOR CHRIST

3 ON 3 TOURNAMENT



\$30 registration
fee per team.

1:00 PM

APRIL 4, 1998

Camp Vandemere invites you to the 3rd Annual "Hoops For Christ" basketball tournament. The tournament will be three-on-three with a thirty minute time limit. You may register by sending the names of participants to the Rev. Tim Heath at 601 Turkey Point Road, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460. For more information call 910-327-2850.

TO BE HELD AT:

SANDY PLAINS

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
HWY 241, BEULAVILLE, NC

Layman's League

Dates to Remember

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 2 | Central Conference Layman's League, Kings Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church, 7:00 PM — Supper, 7:45 PM — Business Meeting |
| March 5 | Executive Board of Layman's League, Free Will Baptist Headquarters, Ayden, 7:30 PM |
| April 2 | Promotional Committee Free Will Baptist Headquarters, Ayden, 7:30 PM |
| May 2 | State Layman's League Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg, 7:00 PM |
| May 23 | State Layman's Singspiration Harrell's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Snow Hill, 6:00 PM |
| June 5-6 | Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat, Camp Vandemere |



1873 - 1998

*Celebrating 125 Years
of Service
to Original
Free Will Baptists*

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 1998

ANNUAL WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Speakers:

Willem and Lydia van der Plas
Missionaries to Eastern Europe

Place:

College Hall, Mount Olive College

Time:

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Schedule:

First Session — 5:00 PM

Light Meal — 6:00 PM

Final Session — 7:00 PM



**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND
BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU. PRAY
DAILY FOR A GREAT CONFERENCE.**

Special Note:

Willem and Lydia will be in North Carolina for a short time and will only be able to visit a limited number of churches. We, therefore, encourage churches throughout the denomination to call off your Evening Worship Service on March 1 and attend the Missions Conference. This will be a great way to show your support for these dear missionaries. This will be an exciting time of fellowship, worship, and music. Plan now to attend.



BOARD OF
FOREIGN MISSIONS
Post Office Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
919-746-4963

IMPORTANT NOTICE - RESPONSE NEEDED

A light meal will be served, at no charge, but in order to prepare the proper amount of food we need to know how many from each church will be attending.

Please call our office (919) 746-4963 by February 23 and give the church name and the number that will be attending.

(If no one is in the office, please leave the information on the answering machine.)

FOREIGN MISSIONS ANNUAL TELETHON

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1998

Dear Lord, Help us reach the Philippines, Mexico, Nepal, India, Bulgaria and the nations of the earth.



THEME: "Pray For Them"

THEME CHAPTER: John 17

THEME VERSE: John 17:20

The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions gives us the opportunity to remember the nations of the earth through prayer and giving.

GOAL 1998: A total of \$125,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached, if we ask the Lord to place the peoples of the earth on our hearts and believe Him for the power and means to reach them.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL.

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 PM. Dial (919) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call will stand as testimony of your commitment in prayer and giving to reach the lost in every nation.

**GOD HEARS OUR PRAYER AND SEES OUR GIVING
AND BLESSES US OPENLY**

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS

March 22, 1998

Prayer for others is the true spirit of intercession and brings new life to our souls.

PRAYER GOAL MARCH 22, 1998:

All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival. Let us pray!



BOARD OF
FOREIGN MISSIONS
Post Office Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
919-746-4963

Birthday Party

by Janan

The birthday of our Lord Jesus made our little children think very sincerely. Before the celebration they came to me in the office and said: "Sister Tezdjan, when we go to a birthday party we always take some presents with us. Now, Jesus will have a birthday, but we don't know what to buy for Him and how we can give our present to Him?" Baise suggested: "Shall we throw it in the air and from there He can catch it?" Another one said: "And everything will fall on your clever head."

From their shining eyes I could see that they really were in great trouble. Then a third one spoke: "If we don't have a present, we will be very ashamed."

Then I invited them to take their seats and I explained to them: "It is really very kind of you to think so hard for a present for Jesus, but since He is not living on this earth, we can make Him very happy with other kinds of presents. Jesus doesn't need worldly presents for Himself, He wants to receive a place in our hearts. Do you want that also?"

Then they responded: "We love Him

and pray every day to Him. We want to give our hearts to Him with joy." "That is all He wants," I told them.

Another child said: "You see, we were worried for nothing." After all problems were solved, the children got the idea to gather money for candies which they could eat together with the other little ones. So they did share their joy.

Like everywhere in the world our children are fond of macaroni, prepared with butter and cheese. Semra made all the plates and the spoons ready. With Lydia, I prepared a big pan with macaroni. After the prayer and Bible story they all prayed: "Father, thank you for Jesus and His birthday, and thank you a lot for this delicious macaroni. Amen."



"Father, thank you for Jesus and His birthday, and thank you a lot for this delicious macaroni. Amen."

12th Mission Conference 1997

by the Rev. Dario S. Basingil

Every year the Mission Department of the Free Will Baptist Church of the Philippines has its Conference. Last October 30–31, 1997, the Missions Conference was held at Main Church, located at Palawan Bible College Campus, Puerto Princesa City.

The theme of the Conference was "Faithful to the End." We had nine invited lecturers: Pastor Fidel Presto, Vice-President of PBC; Pastor Juanito Dulce, the North District Chairman; Pastor Armando Manzano, the Central District Chairman; Pastor Teddy Martinez, the Board of Trustees auditor; Pastor Bernardo Borja, the BOT treasurer; Pastor Junnifer Yarag, Vismin (Visayas, Mindanao) District Chairman; the Rev. Pio dela Rosa, the BOT president; the Rev. Antonio Samones Jr., the Administrator; and the Rev. Jaapal Ongtong, the PBC president.

The Rev. Dario S. Basingil gave each of them the different topics:

God's Plan of the Ages, Pastor Juanito Dulce;
The Pastor and His Family, Pastor Bernardo Borja;

The Pastor and His Time, Pastor Armando Manzano;
The Pastor and His Study, the Rev. Fidel Presto;
Biblical Basis of Suffering, Pastor Teddy Martinez;
Effective Church Planting Strategies, the Rev. Pio dela Rosa;

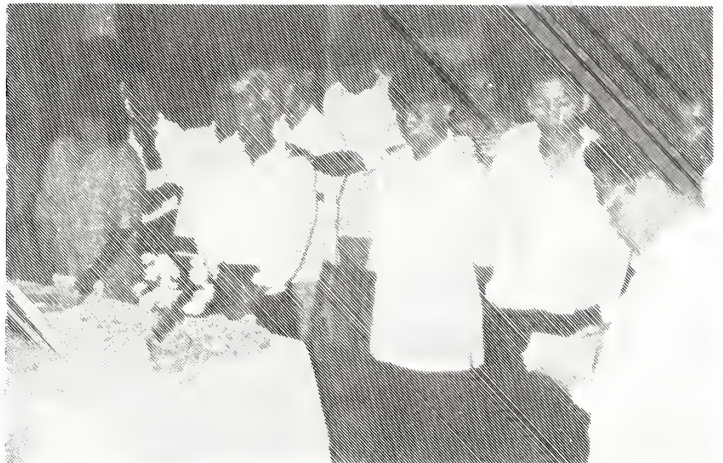
The Global Mission, the Rev. Jaapal Ongtong
Expository Preaching, the Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr.;
Spiritual Warfare, Pastor Junnifer Yarag.

The second night of Conference we had a licensing service, and five persons received certificate of license. They were: Brother Doming Beletario, Brother Celestino Peralta, Sr; Brother Arnel Cuba; Sister Norma Cuba; and Sister Jennifer Badajos. The Rev. Zacarias Perocillo was guest speaker during the licensing service.

The licensing service was followed by a Communion Service with the Rev. Dario S. Basingil officiating. The next Mission Conference (1998) will be held in Cebu City. We need your prayers on this.



The first lecturer was Pastor Juanito Dulce. His topic was "God's Plan of the Ages." He is pastoring in Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, Calaway, Taytay, Palawan.



The Rev. Pio dela Rosa gave a challenge from the Word of God before prayer to those who received certificates of license.



The Rev. Zacarias Perocillo Speaker of the Conference.



Five Loaves of Bread and Fourteen Fish

by Janan

In 1991 the Bulgarian Government pronounced Christmas as an official Holy day, allowed to be celebrated. Before, Christmas was named "Novo-Godina," New Year. This year, 1997, people were able to buy Christmas trees on the market. Still many people don't know the real meaning of Christmas. For them it is a celebration of receiving and giving away presents. Even among those who attend this Christmas rites in the churches many are not aware that God brought a Special Saviour to the world.

We planned to celebrate with the youth group Thanksgiving and Christmas on December 23. For this purpose we decided to buy bread and fish; the food Jesus ate so often with His disciples. Willem bought 14 mackerels and 5 loaves of bread. Everybody worked at the preparations with great enthusiasm. At 4 o'clock we all came together in the classroom. From the Gospel of Matthew we read the story of the birth of Jesus, and we spoke together about the meaning of Christmas. In the meantime, Mamma was frying the fish, and Samet helped her. At 5 o'clock Samet entered the classroom with a large plate of steaming fish. It was a great surprise for everyone.

They all were very happy, because they were able to do something which Jesus also did when he lived on earth — eating fish. After the prayer Willem cut the bread for everybody. We were very thankful to celebrate Jesus' birthday in peace. We thought about the many people who lived in fear for the dangers of war and the murderous violations which are happening in their countries. How blessed are we to live in a peaceful country and above all to have received the Peace of God in our hearts through Jesus Christ our Lord.

One day Jesus shared 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes with hungry people. There was an abundance left over after thousands of people had eaten. We too experienced the abundance of the Lord's blessings. The left over was not thrown in the trash bucket, but taken home with thankfulness and joy.

Thank you, Father, that we are blessed so richly to know you and that we are able to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, that you have presented yourself to us as the "Bread of Life." Amen.



Everyone enjoying the abundance of the Lord's blessings.

Canigaran Church 25th Anniversary and Thanksgiving Day

After a whole day of preparation and almost a whole sleepless night, at last November 16, 1997 has come! It was one of the most awaited dates in Canigaran to celebrate its 25th Anniversary and Thanksgiving day. Pastors Armand Manzano and Elmer Garcellano seemed restless going here and there to furnish the event.

After many years of not having a Pastor, it's nice to see that some of the first members have continued in faith and are still serving God up to this time. After such a long time, the Church continues to strengthen itself and prove that God is with them. In the contents of the song sung by the choir, Jesus' name is lifted up and proclaimed to everyone in the church who in return appreciated God's goodness in his life, by putting his offerings in the cups representing the month of His birth. There were fruit offerings also. The Lord's message delivered by Pastor Antonio Samones entitled, "Thanking God in all Circumstances," inspired every member as well as the visitors from Maranatha, Buncag, Main Church, and all who have heard.

In this event, we have witnessed the cooperation of the adults and the young people as well as the assigned students who gave their best and willfully did their part to make this day very meaningful. We're really glad to say that the church did not collect a compulsory contribution from the members. Instead, the members voluntarily promised their donations and fulfilled them. The church really has reason to thank God for His faithfulness in His promise and for creating generous hearts and wide opened hands to all the members despite the difficulties experienced in life. Glory to God!

Hansley Elected to Serve on Mission America Committee



Rev. David C. Hansley, Director of Home Missions and Evangelism

In October, 1997, the Rev. David C. Hansley, Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, received an invitation from Dr. Paul Cedar, chairman of "Mission America," to become a member of the National Committee. Mr. Hansley accepted the invitation and thus attended the "Mission America" Conference on January 21-24, held in St. Louis, MO.

The goal of "Mission America," as stated in the letter of invitation, is "...to pray for and lovingly share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with every person in the United States between now and the Year 2000. At the same time, we are committed to do all that we can to promote the ministries of prayer, revival, and spiritual awakening in our nation that increased

thousands of men and women will be mobilized to go to the ends of the earth to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others."

The "Mission America" National Committee includes over 200 Christian leaders representing approximately 150,000 churches, denominations and parachurch ministries. Dr. Billy Graham, one of the honorary chairpersons, states: "As we approach the dawn of a new millennium, our country stands in great need of a genuine spiritual awakening. I strongly support the goals of Mission America, and pray that God will use it to bring a new wave of evangelism and spiritual renewal to our nation and our world."

The following article appeared in the November, 1997 issue of *Mission America Monthly*, a publication of the Mission America coalition:

Churches Unite to Reach America for Christ

Largest, Most Inclusive Evangelistic Effort Underway

As the millennium draws to a close, Christians are being challenged to take seriously the call to reach America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Those same Christians are responding by the thousands, taking up the challenge to make a concerted effort for the next four years to pray for their family and friends and then seek ways to share Jesus Christ with them.

Celebrate Jesus 2000, the national evangelism initiative of the *Mission America* coalition, seeks to remind Christians that the greatest reason to celebrate the new millennium is faith in Jesus Christ, especially as we approach the 2,000th anniversary of His birth. *Celebrate Jesus 2000* asks Christians to work collaboratively to do what Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to do, to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel, making disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28).

There is very little doubt that our nation is in great need of spiritual awakening and renewal. There is no better time to come together to reach the nation for Christ than in the twilight years of the 20th Century. Dr. Larry Lewis, National Facilitator of *Celebrate Jesus 2000* says, "This is the first time in the history of our nation we have come to the end of a millennium. We won't have that opportunity for another 1000 years.

Certainly it behooves us to 'redeem the time' by doing our best to fulfill the Great Commission mandate to evangelize our nation."

Never before in the history of the American church, have so many members of the Body of Christ come together for the purpose of evangelism. Already 52 denominations have pledged to be a part of *Celebrate Jesus 2000* by promoting it in their local churches. Over 150,000 churches are expected to participate in *Celebrate Jesus 2000*. Dr. Lewis says, "If every one of those churches will do its part, bathing their church mission field in prayer and sharing the gospel in every home, we can saturate America with the gospel. The *Mission America* goal of praying for and sharing Christ with every person in America is reachable and doable. And if we can do it, we should do it!"

Earlier this year the *National Association of Evangelicals* voted unanimously to officially endorse *Celebrate Jesus 2000*. In taking the action, the NAE heartily affirmed *Celebrate Jesus 2000* and encouraged its members denominations to participate.

Celebrate Jesus 2000 recognizes that prayer is the most essential and the most effective

Cont. on page 18

Celebrate Jesus 2000 seeks to remind Christians that the greatest reason to celebrate the new millennium is faith in Jesus Christ, especially as we approach the 2,000th anniversary of His birth.

MARCH

Pray

Thin

SUN	MON	TUE	
1 World Missions Conference College Hall, MOC, 5:00-8:00 PM	2 Layman's League, Central Conference, Kings Crossroads OFWB, 7:00 PM Supper 7:45 PM Business	3	4
	MOC S		
8	9	10	11
	Camp Vandemere Revival, March 9-13, Memor		
15	16	17	18
		<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	
22 Foreign Missions Telethon Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 PM	23	24	25
29 MOC Scholarship Day	30 Student Recital Rodgers Chapel, MOC 7:30 PM	31	1

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

erns _____

member _____

THU		FRI	SAT
	5 Layman's League Executive Board Meeting, FWB Headquarters, 7:30 PM	6	7 Sunday School Board Institute. Murphy Regional Center, MOC 8:00 AM
Break			
	12 Women's History Lecture, Rodgers Chapel, MOC, 11:00 AM	13	14
WB Church, Chocowinity, NC — 7:45 Nightly			
	19 MOC Career Fair, College Hall, 9:00 AM Eastern Auxiliary	20 Transfer Visitation Day, Murphy Regional Center, MOC 9:00 AM <i>Spring Begins</i>	21 Eastern District Women's Auxiliary Convention, Macedonia FWB Church 9:30 AM
	26	27	28 Central Auxiliary Cape Fear Conference Union Meeting, St. Mary's Grove, Benson, 10:00 AM
	2	3	4

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

**Annual
Prayer Retreat
For
Harvest Helpers**

Saturday — April 25, 1998
9:00 AM — 12:15 PM

HOLIDAY INN
Conference Room
Highway 70 East, Kinston, North Carolina

9:00 AM
Breakfast Buffet
\$6.00 per person, All You Can Eat

PROGRAM

- Inspirational with Music and Meditation
- Praying for Original Free Will Baptists
- Introduction to "Avenues for Action Through Prayer"
- Learn About:
 - Celebrate Jesus 2000
 - How to Begin an Aaron's Prayer Band
 - Praying for Our Nation
 - Women in Prayer
 - Personal Victory Through Prayer
 - Children Praying Too

**Don't Forget to send in your
Attendance Form Today!**

For more information contact Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or call (919) 746-4963

**Good Shepherd
Sunday
April 26, 1998**

**Pray and
Give for
Home Missions
and Evangelism**



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| • Church Planting | • Scripture Distribution |
| • Ethnic Missions | • Disaster Relief |
| • Deaf Missions | • Project Kids Care |
| • Spanish Missions | • Harvest Covenant Program |

**Celebrating
25 Years of
Expanding His Kingdom**



Home Missions and Evangelism
PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (919) 746-4963

Churches Unite to Reach America for Christ, Cont....

resource in evangelism. Christians first of all are being asked to pray for their family, friends and neighbors, and then to seek ways to share the gospel with them, through a brief, friendly "threshold witness" or through lifestyle evangelism.

Public events, such as city-wide or individual church crusades where the gospel is proclaimed, will also be held. An important part of this effort is effective follow-up with new believers to involve them in new or existing congregations for discipleship and fellowship. In addition, Christians are involved in demonstrating "love in action" by serving those in need in their community.

(Resource materials and suggestions for involvement in *Celebrate Jesus 2000*, including a *Church Mobilization Kit*, are available through Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Phone (919) 746-4963, or Fax (919) 746-8913. Copies of the Mission Statement are also available.)

Grandpa Duncan

Humble, honest, easy to respect, loving, kindhearted: These are the words used to describe the Pastor of Memorial Chapel at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The Rev. Duncan enjoys explaining how the children on campus call him "Grandpa."

The Rev. Lester Duncan has served as Pastor of Memorial Chapel for five years. During that time, he has become a close and dear friend to the children and staff of the Children's Home.

Each Sunday, he preaches and teaches the love of Christ and the Salvation He gives to everyone. But Mr. Duncan is more than just the Pastor at Memorial Chapel. He is a supportive and caring friend to those who are guided by his belief and example. He participates in many other gatherings that involve supporting the children under his watch-care. He visits during holidays, special events, and he is there when comfort and concern is needed.

Pastor Duncan served in the United States Army during World War II. He accepted Christ into his life in 1953. Several years later he answered the call to become a minister. He and his wife, Mrs. Nancy, have been married for 48 years. They are blessed with three children and six grandchildren.

Pastor Duncan was ordained on August 20, 1964, at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Nash County. He has pastored Barnes Hill Church, Free Union Church in Nash County, Mars Hill and Branch Chapel Churches, prior

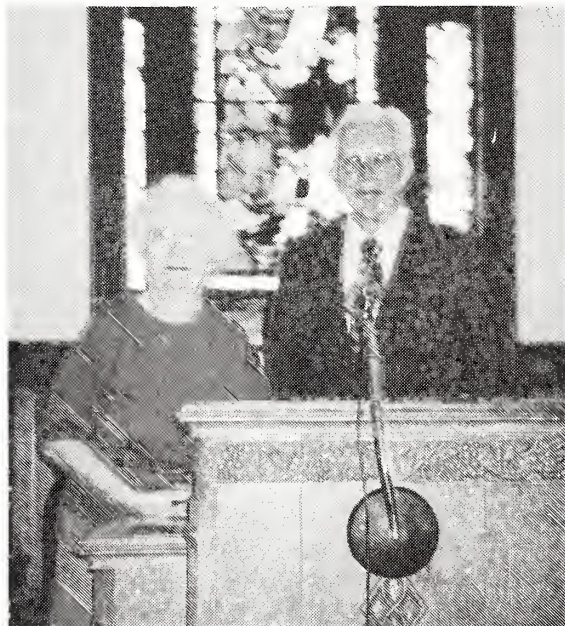
to pastoring at Memorial Chapel.

Although Mr. Duncan is semi-retired, he is an active member of the American Legion in Wilson and plans to continue serving God wherever the Lord leads him.

Pastor Duncan is many things to our children in care. The role of a Grandfather is a very special one. Grandfather Duncan is truly loved and respected by all of us on the hill.



Pastor Duncan outside Memorial Chapel.



Pastor Duncan and his wife, Nancy.

Winter's Visit

A perfect day for winter was ordered on January 15, 1998, when the first snow of the new year beautifully covered the campus of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Snowmen were perched in front of the cottages as children played in the white powdery frost. Snowball fights, beautiful scenery, and just plain fun made the day exciting and enjoyable.



A perfect day for winter at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Linda Greenwood:

Helping Students Get Off on the Right Foot

Linda Greenwood is in the business of helping students get off on to a good start. She spends a lot of her time helping freshmen and seniors understand and acquire skills to meet the special challenges each faces.

For freshmen, the challenge is learning how to succeed in college. For seniors, the challenge is learning how to get a job.

As director of advisement and career development at Mount Olive College, Greenwood's task is to make students aware of techniques and strategies that are tried and true. Most students get the message, but not all. In college life and in life after college, there are no guarantees.

Freshmen are introduced to Greenwood and the services she offers before they are officially enrolled. The college holds visitation days in the spring and the summer to begin the process of orienting students and their parents to college life.

"The biggest difference is academics," Greenwood says, "Most students are under prepared for the amount of reading and homework that is required in college."

Greenwood says that many students tell her that they may have studied two hours a week and others say that they were able to get B's just by listening in class.

"Key to academic success is time management," Greenwood says. "In high

school, a student is in class eight hours a day. In college, the student may be in class three or four hours a day. What he or she does the rest of the day determines who succeeds and who doesn't. Some establish a schedule for reading and class preparation while others squander the time.

"Time not in class is not time off," Greenwood says. Students have to learn this.

Greenwood's strategy to start freshmen on the right foot involves bringing them on campus two full days ahead of returning students and starting the freshman seminar program.

The early arrival helps new college students settle into their rooms, make new friends, and get their bearings about where and when to eat, where the classrooms are, where the mail boxes are, where to buy toothpaste and books, and other necessary details. For some, it is their first time away from home for an extended time, and for others, getting used to a roommate is an adjustment. The extra time without having to worry about classes helps.

Freshman seminar consists of interactive small groups in which students find support in each other and from an instructor.

Greenwood says that students meet with their seminar group twice a week for most of their first semester learning about time management, note taking, how "to read" and approach professors, and how to use the library.

"About half have some sense of a major or career," Greenwood says. In addition to study skills, the seminar encourages students to evaluate their preferences and interests as a way of guiding them to a major field of study leading to a career interest. Students take the Strong Interest Inventory and use Sigi Plus, a computerized career guidance program.

This year Greenwood added a new wrinkle to the freshman seminar — a formal dinner to teach etiquette. The college put out its "good" china, flatware, and crystal for the occasion. The food service staff prepared a four-course meal which was served by the college ambassadors.

Throughout the dinner, etiquette consultants Karen Haithcock and Nancy Taylor rang a dinner bell and gave a series of mini-lessons, such as how to properly use a soup spoon and which fork to use for the salad.

Student evaluations indicated that most students enjoyed the dinner and got something out of it. Comments ranged from "it was fun,"



Linda Greenwood shows an article to student Scott Clingan. As director of advisement and career development, Greenwood counsels most students at one time or another during their association with the college.

and "I wish I had this a year ago," to "I don't know when I'll need some of these lessons, but I know a day will come when I do."

The dinner was so well received, Greenwood is considering having one for graduating seniors. Other colleges are beginning to offer similar experiences, Greenwood says.

As freshmen become acclimated to college life, Greenwood shifts her attention to helping seniors prepare to enter the job market.

Throughout the year, she offers classes in resume and cover letter writing and interview techniques. Additionally, she invites alumni, human resource directors, and local business men and women from a variety of career fields to present "job talks."

Greenwood says that she sees a surge of interest from seniors twice a year.

"Some seniors return from summer vacation in August very interested in acquiring the skills necessary to secure an entry level position in their field," she says. "Others wake-up to the reality of a career in about February. If they haven't thought about it sooner, they are more in a panic."

During the fall, Greenwood works to prepare seniors for a job fair in Raleigh co-sponsored by Mount Olive and six other private colleges which form the Eastern North Carolina Career Alliance. This year 31 students, including three alumni, participated and had 84 interviews with prospective employers.

"I felt very prepared," said Kevin Aycock, a recent graduate who majored in human resource development. Greenwood helped Aycock gear his resume to each prospective employer with whom he interviewed and coached him through a practice "mock" interview. After a second interview, CVS Pharmacies hired him into its management training program.

Aycock says that Greenwood's counsel was "right on." He is convinced that his knowledge of the companies, his tailored resumes, and the experience of going through a practice interview gave him an advantage over other candidates.

In March, Greenwood stages a job and career fair at the college. Last year, more than 60 employers, representing businesses, industry, state and federal agencies, and six graduate schools participated.

When she isn't arranging a seminar, a job talk, or planning a career fair, Greenwood is busy making sure that students receive a steady flow of information. She publishes a regular newsletter, *Career Connections*, filled with tips, trend information, and dates of upcoming career talks and opportunities. She screens career-oriented publications and distributes articles that students might find useful as well as maintains a career resource library.

Greenwood helps sophomores and juniors by arranging co-ops and internships. A co-op is an arrangement in which a student attends classes and works at a local business in a field related to the student's major. The student usually is paid and receives credit for the work experience.

The college has co-op agreements with Sleep Inn, Coastal Lumber Company, Pope Transport, Carolina Turkeys, Jerry Britt, CPA, and other employers.

Internships are full-time arrangements during the summer. Last summer, three Mount Olive College students participated in the North Carolina State Government Intern Program.

In addition to her personal efforts and the resources of her office, Greenwood says that faculty have a tremendous

influence on career and employer choices by students. While many faculty members have first hand experience in career fields, Greenwood encourages them to utilize her resources and services before making recommendations to students.

Greenwood has been with the college since 1984, first as director of counseling and then as director of advisement and career development since 1992. She possesses a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a master's degree in counseling from East Carolina University. And she is certified by the National Board of Certified Counselors.

"The greatest joy of my job is working with people — students, faculty, and employers," Greenwood says. "And it is always gratifying to receive a note from an alumnus about a suggestion or tip that resulted in someone obtaining meaningful employment."

"My greatest challenge is getting more students to take full advantage of our services," she says. "Many wait until the last minute to write a resume, practice interviewing, or research graduate school requirements."

"The Advisement and Career Development Office at Mount Olive College has an alpha and omega function — that of assisting students from entry and orientation to exit and employ," said Dorothy Whitley, dean for academic support.

"Linda Greenwood understands this function, executes it admirably, and makes multi-dimensional work look easy," Whitley said.

Upcoming Events

March 7	FWB Sunday School Board Institute, 8:00 AM, Murphy Regional Center
March 12	Women's History Lecture, 11:00 AM, Rodgers Chapel
March 19	Career Fair, 9:00 AM, College Hall
March 20	Transfer Visitation Day, 9:00 AM, Murphy Regional Center
March 30	Student Recital, 7:30 PM, Rodgers Chapel
April 3	Wayne County Society for Mount Olive College Dinner, 7:00 PM, Murphy Regional Center
April 8	MOC Trojans vs. Kinston Indians, 7:00 PM, Grainger Stadium, Kinston

Marshal to Speak at MOC

The Honorable Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State for the State of North Carolina, will speak at the College on Thursday, March 12, at 11:00 AM, in Rodgers Chapel. Ms. Marshall will commemorate Women's History Month. Following her presentation, a no-host luncheon will follow in the Hennessee Room of the Murphy Regional Center. The public is invited to the lecture and luncheon.

Church Night Big Success

Church Night on Saturday, January 24, was a big success. Twenty-three Free Will Baptist churches came with a total of 297 church members. Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church came with the largest group — 42 people!



Thank you all for traveling to the College. For many, it was quite a long trip. Hope you enjoyed the game and fellowship as much as we enjoyed having you here — at your College!

Anthony Gudac, representative from Pine Level FWB Church, accepts the certificate for the church with the largest number of members. Presented from Matt Green and Tim Woolard, organizers of the Church Night activities.

THE CRAGMONT CLUB

The Cragmont Club was established to help us have a healthier cash flow. Each year the club is responsible for bringing in approximately \$30,000, much of which will arrive on a monthly time schedule. While the club will give you and your immediate family members certain benefits we hope that these benefits are not the reason for joining. It is our hope that the greatest benefit you receive is knowing that you are helping to keep alive an important ministry of the denomination.

The Plan

For \$10 per month you and your immediate family may spend a weekend or the equivalent of a weekend at Cragmont at no cost.

The Rules

- Benefits may not be used during regularly scheduled conferences.
- Benefits may not be carried over into another year.
- Those persons living under your roof is our definition of immediate family.
- Meals will not be prepared unless there are 15 or more people staying at Cragmont.
- You may use benefits if you are traveling in the area while on vacation.
- You may use benefits while at Cragmont during a church retreat.

To join the Cragmont Club make out your first check for \$10 to Cragmont, earmarked for the Club. Each month a reminder is sent to jog your memory to send in your next \$10 during the course of the year.

Summer Camp Schedule

MORNING STAR

April 17-19, 1998

Teresa Ball • 919-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd, Grifton, NC 28530

JUNE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE

June 8-13, 1998

Teresa Ball • 919-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530

MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

June 15-18, 1998

Doug Skinner • 919-596-2456

817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703

CHRISTIAN CADET CONFERENCE

June 22-27, 1998

Gary Bailey • 919-735-3916

112 Crosswinds Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27530

YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (YFA)

June 29-July 4, 1998

Janie Sowers • 919-235-2408

Frankie Baggett, Co-Director • 919-746-7850

PO Box 824, Middlesex, NC 27557

YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (AFC)

July 6-11, 1998

Frankie Baggett • 919-746-7850

5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd, Ayden, NC 28530

GENERAL YOUTH II CONFERENCE

July 13-18, 1998

Chris Singleton • 910-298-3520

PO Box 162, Beulaville, NC 28518

GENERAL YOUTH I CONFERENCE

July 20-25, 1998

Bryant Hines • 919-638-3436

PO Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523

YOUNG PEOPLE'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

July 27-August 1, 1998

James Gurganus • 919-223-5251

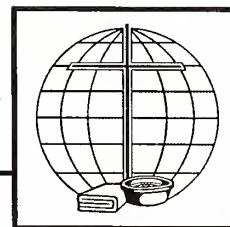
1317 Nine Foot Rd, Newport, NC 28570

AUGUST WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE

August 3-8, 1998

Teresa Ball • 919-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530



To: Pastors of Free Will Baptist Churches Re: Rainbow Prison Ministry, Craven Correctional Facility, Vanceboro, NC.

Dear Pastor:

On August 8, 1997, the New Bethlehem Original Free Will Baptist Church, along with participants from other area churches began a new ministry to residents of the Craven Correctional Facility in Vanceboro, NC. The purpose of this endeavor is to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to those behind prison walls. To say that the efforts of a few dedicated servants of God have been successful is a tremendous understatement.

The following statistics will speak for themselves:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Personnel | • 5 ministers and 8 laymen each contributing 1½ hours on one Thursday night per month. |
| Program | • 90 minutes of unrestricted preaching, invitations, counseling, and distribution of New Testaments. |
| Result | • More than 500 New Testaments have been distributed to inmates requesting God's Word.
• 86 men have made first-time decisions of salvation.
• 115 men have made professions of rededication to Christ.
• More than 100 inmates attend weekly services. |

Pastor, we would like for you and your congregation to become a part of this vital ministry to those shackled by the chains of human sin. We cannot allow unconcern or prejudice to stop us from performing our God-given duty of taking the gospel to the lost, wherever they may be. Here is how you and your people can assist in this effort:

1. Pray for the continued success of the Rainbow Prison Ministry.
2. Become a part yourself and encourage your men and women to participate.
3. Suggest to your church financial support of the ministry (100 New Testaments cost \$186.00)

Mr. Frank Owen (919-745-5449) is the contact person and director of this work; he will be glad to answer any questions you may have. He will even come to your church to discuss the ministry with you and your congregation.

Thank you for your support of this ministry. We pray that we will hear from you soon.

In His Service

Buddy Sasser, Pastor

New Bethlehem Original Free Will Baptist Church

Church Honors Ms. Holland for 31 Years of Service

Clarabel Holland of Micro was honored recently for her 31 years of service as treasurer at Micro Free Will Baptist Church, Micro, NC. The Rev. Paul K. Nicholson, pastor of the church, church members, and friends of Ms. Holland celebrated her service with a covered dish supper in the church fellowship hall. During the evening, the Rev. Nicholson presented Ms. Holland a plaque expressing the church's appreciation of her service. Ms. Holland has been a member of the church for 60 years during which she also has served as Sunday school secretary and Sunday school teacher for the junior class. She is an active member of the Women's Auxiliary and has been for many years. She says she has always been active in the church as a volunteer whenever needed.

She has stepped down from the post which is now filled by Elaine Phillips of Micro. "Elaine will do a fine job," said Ms. Holland. "I just felt it was time for me to step down. I've served long and it's time to let someone else take over. I plan to continue to be active in the church and serve in any capacity I can."



Ms. Clarabel Holland

Free Union Free Will Baptist Church Journeyed to the Hadnot Creek Primitive Baptist Church

The Rev. Michael Gauker Warning and his wife Pepper, decided to have an outing with their Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Sea Level. Several of their members journeyed to the Hadnot Creek Primitive Baptist Church for the annual celebration of its beginning in 1815. The Hadnot Creek Primitive Baptist Church is the oldest church in Carteret County. Almeta Taylor said, "Our church felt closer for taking a short trip together to worship in the oldest church in Carteret County. I want to go somewhere together again as if we are going on a pilgrimage."



Miss Viena, Miss Mamie Taylor, Almeta Taylor, Pauline and Julian Gaskill outside the Hadnot Creek Primitive Baptist Church.



The Rev. Michael Warning and his wife Pepper.

January was a month of sadness in our community and our youth were affected by the deaths of two youngsters from East Clayton Elementary School. Amanda White, fifth grader, died January 11 following a long illness; and Jerdana Woodhouse, first grader, was struck by a car at her bus stop on the morning of January 21. Both children had older siblings at Clayton Middle School. Their lives touched so many others, whether it was a teacher, a cafeteria worker, or just a friend passed in the hall. Another sad fact is that the car that struck Jerdana was driven by a Clayton High School student. Pray for these families and for all our youth trying to understand and accept these events.

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At our Prayer Meeting on Wednesday, January 21, the youth surprised Martha Bogle (wife of the Rev. Jim Bogle) by standing and singing "Happy Birthday!" Congratulations to Martha and we hope she celebrates many, many more with us.

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Coming up March 21 is a fund-raiser for the youth who hope to go to camp this summer. There will be a hot-dog supper in the fellowship hall following the gospel sing and entertainment in the sanctuary.

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Plans are under way for Powhatan to participate in the Johnston County "Relay For Life" cancer walk-a-thon again this year. The dates this year will be June 12-13. Vicky Bagley and Sue Greene will be our team leaders.

### **CAMP VANDEMERE REVIVAL**

Memorial Original Free Will Baptist Church, Chocowinity, NC will conduct its "Camp Vandemere Revival" March 9-13, with services beginning each evening at 7:45. All offerings received during the services will be donated to Camp Vandemere. The speakers for the services are as follows:

Monday, March 9 — the Rev. Greg Mills  
Tuesday, March 10 — the Rev. John Mark Windley  
Wednesday, March 11 — the Rev. Doug Randall  
Thursday, March 12 — the Rev. Buddy Sasser  
Friday, March 13 — the Rev. Calvin Heath

The nursery will be made available each evening.  
The pastor is the Rev. Owen Arthur.



# Celebration of Collards

by Elaine Swinson

The aroma of collards wafted gently throughout the kitchen, across the fellowship hall, down the hallway and stealthily entered the sanctuary. Noses began to gently sniff and tips of tongues moistened lips. Anticipation heightened as the worship services came to an end. It was officially *Collard Sunday* at Free Union. God's blessings were asked upon our great bounty — the *common collard*.

Each winter the Ladies Auxiliary of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Pinetown, NC, provides a culinary delight for every collard connoisseur within driving distance. Out of town family members *just happen* to come home for a visit at this opportune time. It's like a holiday.

Preacher Harold, Daryl, and Sarah Windley, and Alma Lee Keech portrayed true heroism in the collard patch down at Billy and Sally Keech's *Garden Spot*, which was covered in heavy layer of wet, sticky mud after several days of hard rainfall. Onlookers would have declared that the Free Union Olympics were in progress. Each collard cutter excelled in the categories of mud skiing, skating, and sliding while holding a plastic garbage bag full of collards. After 15 bags were filled to the brim, the grinning, mud-splattered group became a delivery service to the "*collard cooks*."

A "state dinner" for the president would have received no greater attention or preparation. With the time drawing near for the great event, each auxiliary member had their assignments and were diligently steering their vessels toward land. Signs were made and posted; tables and chairs arranged; flower arrangements created; 110 lbs of chickens were delivered, cleaned, cut and fried; pounds of potatoes peeled and boiled; cornbread baked; sweet potatoes candied; ham sliced; corn meal dumplings shaped; string beans seasoned; cucumbers and onions bathed in vinegar; rutabagas cooked and chopped; potato salad prepared; cakes and pies baked; tea and coffee brewed; and best of all — collards, collards and more collards were cooked in big pots with pigtails, fat back, and smoked meat. *What an adventure!*

Serving time finally arrived and all was in place. Stacks of plates and silverware awaited the arrival of over 200 hungry folks refreshed by a wonderful sermon and beautiful singing.

As God looked down upon our group, I believe He had to smile. Everyone was happy, hungry and busy talking. Plates were filled to the brim with offers of replenishment for anyone who could hold any more. Thanks to good organization and two serving lines, everybody (including cooks) were eating by 12:30. Compliments to the cooks were freely given as everyone enjoyed every bite they ate.

The tables are empty now; the kitchen is spotless; and the leftovers safely tucked in the refrigerator. Everyone has gone home to take up residence on sofas and recliners with a sigh of contentment. The donation box held over \$1,200.00, which represented gifts given freely from the heart as no tickets were sold or prices quoted.

The greatest blessing, however, was not monetary. It was the fellowship and enjoyment of working together as Christians in harmony. The sound of laughter surely made the angels in heaven sing, because the trials and tribulations of the world were laid aside for a short time, while we rejoiced in our endeavors. Next year just about this time, when you need to be reminded of your blessings, why don't you join us for our annual "*Celebration of Collards*."

## People & Events

### Cape Fear Conference

The Cape Fear Conference Union Meeting will convene March 28, 1998, 10:00 AM, St. Mary's Grove in Benson, North Carolina.

## ATTENTION:

### Woman's Auxiliaries

Now is the time for you to collect your per capita dues, if you have not already done so. These dues should be collected during the first months of the year in time to be sent to your District Treasurer before, or in time for, your District Convention. The dues are 40 cents per member per year.

Send these dues to your District Treasurer: she will keep 20 cents and send 20 cents to your State Treasurer. It is necessary that you cooperate in this as these dues provide a part of the funds for the operational expenses of your convention. Thank you for your past support; we know that we can continue to count on you.

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The 1998 Session of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention will convene on Thursday, May 14, 1998 at the East Rockingham Church in the Piedmont District. Each auxiliary should represent with one delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof, plus a registration fee of \$15.00. In order to save time, we request that you send your registration fee in advance. This allows the State Treasurer to prepare the cards in advance, and saves the delegates the trouble of having to register at the door.

Please mail your fee before April 25, if possible, to the following address.

Mrs. Nadine Crocker

568 House Road, Kenly, NC 27542

If you cannot possibly attend, please mail your fee anyway, as the convention needs your support. We hope, however, to see you there.

## Cape Fear

The Cape Fear District Woman's Auxiliary will meet April 4, 1998, at Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM. The session will begin at 9:30 AM.



## People & Events

### Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Hosted by  
Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church

March 21, 1998

Theme: "Sufficient Grace"

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9

- 9:30 Registration
- 9:50 Music Medley ..... Linda Lou Russell  
Macedonia Church
- 10:00 Call to Order ..... Judy Kennedy  
Sandy Plain Church
- Prayer for Convention  
"Come Thou Fount" ..... No. 2
- 10:10 Welcome ..... Thelma Whitford  
Macedonia Church
- Response ..... Lois Wetherington  
Mosley's Creek Church
- 10:20 Scripture and Prayer ..... Audrey Quinn  
Wintergreen Church
- 10:30 President's Remarks ..... Cathy Crumpler  
Sarecta Church
- Appointment of Committees
- 10:40 Report of Denominational Ministries
- 11:00 "Grace Greater Than All Our Sin" ..... No. 201
- 11:05 Business Session  
Secretary's Report  
Recognition of A-1 Auxiliaries ..... Happy Taylor  
Smith's New Home Church
- Convention Offering for Camp Vandemere
- 11:25 Pin Award ..... Committee
- 11:35 Special Music ..... Joy Guthrie  
Phyllis Godly  
The Rev. Joe Ratcliff
- 11:40 Worship Service ..... Cynthia Mills  
Juniper Chapel Church
- 12:10 "Amazing Grace" ..... No. 202  
Miscellaneous Business  
Treasurer's Report  
Committee Reports  
Lunch Announcement
- 12:25 Benediction and Blessing ..... The Rev. Joe Ratcliff  
Macedonia Church

Music Director: Rebecca Hill  
Pianist: Linda Lou Russell  
Ushers: Hazel Hawks, Daphne Ipock,  
Effie Lee Laughinghouse, and Sarah Gaskins

### Western District

### Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Spring Hill Free Will Baptist Church

Hwy. 70 West, Goldsboro, NC

April 1, 1998

Theme: "Walking by Faith"

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:7

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Hymn  
Devotion — Hebrews 11:1  
Welcome — Jean Ackiss  
President's Remarks — Betty Lynch
- 9:50 Hymn  
Convention Offering  
Report from our Denominational  
Ministries  
Youth Report — Cathy Creech
- 10:40 Memorial Service — Johnnie Warren  
Business Session
- 11:20 Break
- 11:40 Hymn  
Special Music — Spring Hill Church  
Convention Message — Jean Ackiss
- 12:30 Benediction  
Lunch

# SPRING STRETCH 1998

Due to time constraints and  
personnel changes the 1998  
Spring Stretch has been  
postponed. Look for new  
information on  
Fall Fling '98 coming soon.  
Buddy Sasser,  
Convention Secretary

**REGISTRATION FORM  
CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCE**

**Morning Star**

**April 17-19, 1998**

**SPEAKERS: WILLEM AND LYDIA VAN DER PLAS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations,  
please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this registration form along with  
a \$20.00 deposit to:

**Teresa M. Ball  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530**

A balance of \$30.00 will be due upon  
arrival at Cragmont.

**REGISTRATION FORM  
CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCES**

**June 8-13, 1998**

**SPEAKER: JOYCE EDMUNDSON**

**August 3-8, 1998**

**SPEAKER: TBA**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

**Which Conference Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations,  
please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this registration form along with a  
\$20.00 deposit to:

**Teresa M. Ball  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530**

A balance of \$120.00 will be due upon  
arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip is being planned (Appox. \$65.00),  
and there will be afternoon trips into Black  
Mountain and Asheville (\$5.00 each). Please  
make your plans now to join us for one or  
both of these conferences.

**Remember:** The June Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies. A limited number of private accommodations for couples are available on a first registered, first served basis.

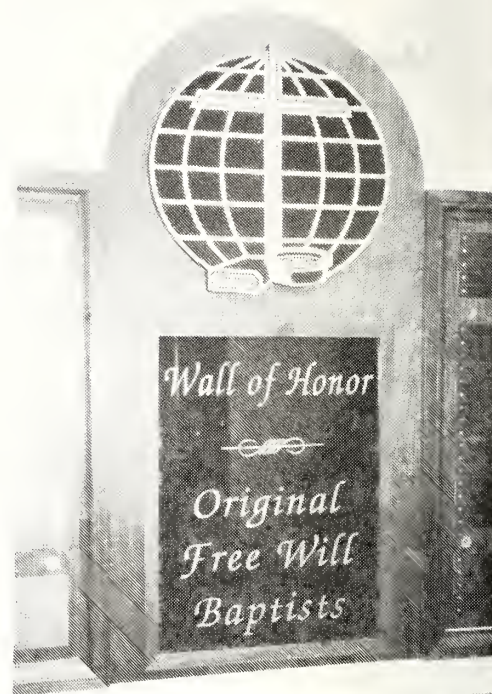


## People & Events

### Wall of Honor is Installed

The Wall of Honor was installed in the Convention Headquarters on January 27, 1998. Pictured is the Rev. Harold Swinson, a member of the Executive Committee, as he completes the hanging of the Wall of Honor. Also assisting in the installation were the Revs. Fred Baker and Bruce Dudley.

As seen in the picture below, the Wall of Honor is beautifully designed and is of substantial size.



The Wall of Honor is for any Free Will Baptist (Pastor, Ministry Director, Denominational Leaders, Local Church Leaders, and all Laity). For someone to be Honored there must be a gift of \$500.00 per person or couple being honored. A plaque with the name of the person being honored and the name of the giver will be placed on the Wall of Honor. Also a special presentation of recognition will be made to the person being honored or his/her family.

The gifts received from the Wall of Honor will be used in the following ways: \$250.00 will go into the "Wall of Honor Endowment" and \$250.00 will go into the general fund of the Convention. The Wall of Honor gifts become gifts that help the present, assures the Convention of a ministry in the future, and becomes a lasting tribute to that person honored.

### From the Mailbox

#### Pastor Available

The Rev. Clifford B. Harwood is available for Supply or Bi-vocational pastorate.

Contact Rev.  
Clifford B. Harwood  
919-242-6218

The Rev. A. B. Bryan, of Wayne County, is available for Pastoral or Supply Work. He is a member, in good standing of the Eastern Conference.

Contact  
Rev. A. B. Byran  
919-736-8998  
231 Five Points Road  
Dudley, NC. 28333

#### Pastor Needed

Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church  
Pamlico County

Contact:  
Mrs. James Newton  
PO Box 96  
Vandemere, NC 28587  
919-745-3543  
or  
Reginald Caroon  
919-745-3216

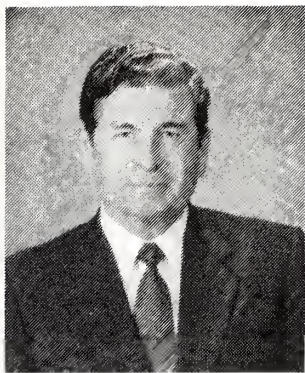
#### Denominational Heritage

Dr. Michael Pelt, retired professor of religion at Mount Olive College and author of *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, has announced that he will be pleased to accept invitations from local churches or church organizations, such as a woman's auxiliary, to make a presentation on some aspect of our denominational heritage on a Sunday evening or a Wednesday evening during the coming months. You may contact him by letter at 322 Baker Chapel Church Road, Mount Olive, NC 28365 or by calling him at 919-658-2343.

# THE GOLDEN YEARS

Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens

"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God,  
till I declare your power to the next generation," (Psalm 71:18, NIV).



## "How Many More Years Will I Live?"

W. BURKETTE RAPER, PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Death is a subject our present-day society would like to ignore, or at least to camouflage. If our existence, however, is to have focus and meaning, we must not only see life, but see it whole. Death is an integral part of life, and to ignore it is to make life an illusion — something unreal.

"How many years will I live?" is a question asked three thousand years ago by a person whom the Bible describes as a "very old man, eighty years of age," (2 Samuel 19:32, 34). For several days after reading this question, I made a tabulation of obituaries in *The News and Observer* (Raleigh, NC). Of 474 persons, here is a summary of their ages at death:

- 14% were age 59 or under;
- 19% were in their 60's;
- 28% were in their 70's;
- 28% were in their 80's;
- 12% were in their 90's;
- Two had reached the age of 100.

Unless one is terminally ill, no one knows how many more years he or she has to live. We only know that death is our exit from life on earth, and the older we are the nearer to that exit we may be.

## The Real Thing: Life With A Focus

Life is like a symphony — it has to have a theme which gives it a focus. Without a focus, life is no more than a series of discordant sounds. The theme which brings a symphony to an inspiring crescendo is not introduced in the final movement, but is a focus which the composer had in mind in the beginning. We need to ask early in life, "What will matter in the end?"

The real thing in life is what we become, and what we become is determined by our values and priorities. The real thing is character — not image, not a facade, and not pretense — but a character worthy to be carried into the next world.

The real thing is to have a focus for life which transcends ourselves and our time. The great English playwright of this century, George Bernard Shaw, described his focus of life in these memorable words:

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatsoever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no 'brief candle' for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

## The Real Thing: A Legacy That Transcends Our Mortality

My daily walk usually carries me down West James Street by the old campus site of Mount Olive College. On a recent walk, words from the Apocrypha came to mind as I noted that only one or two houses on that street are still occupied by the people who lived there when the College came to Mount Olive in 1953:

"Some there are who have left a name behind them  
to be commemorated in story.

There are others who are unremembered;  
they are dead and it is as though they never existed,  
as though they had never been born..."

(Ecclesiastics 44:8, 9 *The New English Bible*).

It was comforting to note that some of these people left a legacy that is engraved in the history and heritage of our town; others left a legacy that is nourished in the hearts of their children and grandchildren.

In a 1997 syndicated article, "Some Thoughts About Death," Andy Rooney made a suggestion that has lingered in my mind: "The best thing we could all do for relatives we love who die is make certain there is some written record of who they were and what they did."

What is the real thing? Perhaps no one can fully answer this question for another, but it is a question to which life requires an answer from each of us.

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(The topic for this issue *The Golden Years* comes from *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy, which may be purchased from the Mount Olive Bookstore.)

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1998 (Vol. 3, No. 5) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Charles R. Swindoll. *Stress Fractures: Biblical Splints For Everyday Pressures*. Multnomah Press, 1990. 273 pages.

## Introduction: Part I

What do people do when they experience the "ache of a fractured spirit" or the pain of "a broken heart?" (11) Charles R. Swindoll suggests turning to the Bible to discover the intensive care offered by our "great and gracious God and His eternal Word" (12).

Dr. Pepper Worthington

## Stress and Panic

Aspirin doesn't seem to soothe the multilevel experiences of stress from work, family, the church, money, taxes, debt, and health. How can anybody SLOW DOWN? How can we be freed from the tyranny of the present or the panic of the urgent? Pastor Swindoll reminds us of Solomon's advice about anxiety and panic: (1) trust or throw oneself down before the Lord, (2) turn our heart or inner self upon God, (3) seek others to enlarge our understanding, (4) learn to lean on God as blind Samson did upon the huge pillars supporting the Philistine temple, (5) acknowledge God's presence and control, (6) try to make an obstacle right (21-22).

How else might we shift anxiety and panic? Pastor Swindoll is specific in his suggestions. For starters, why not *pass the load* around? Find qualified people to help. Perhaps then time for both *prayer* and *rest* can bring a calming, inner peace to a fast-paced, stressed-out soul.

The pause offers a depth of living, what the Hebrews called *shalom* (which really means a peace rooted in a deliberate choice to seek the will of God). Imagine our historical need for peace. Swindoll notes "that in a total of 3,530 years of recorded civilization, only 286 of those years have been spent without war taking place on this globe" (34). War is rooted in a lack of peace within, a critical and intolerant frame of reference, greed, paranoia, anxiety. Swindoll reminds us as a people: "We are in an endless wrestling match with insecurity, a lack of confidence, a struggle with a purpose and place in life, and the pursuit of freedom from worry and anxiety" (35).

What exactly is peace? Swindoll hints: "Peace is the ability to remain faithful in spite of the panic of unfulfilled dreams" (41). Peace also seeks the authentic, not the artificial (43). Peace under courage so that we gain "the ability to stay calm in spite of the panic of unpleasant circumstances" (45). Peace allows the lens of our eyes to be God's lens. Peace is also "the ability to wait patiently in spite of panic brought on by uncertainty" (50).

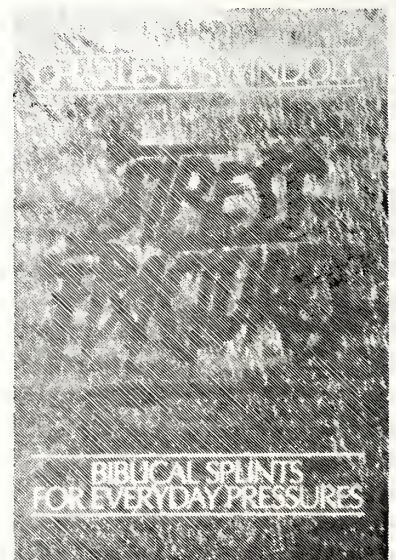
## Defiance and Discomfort

Defiance can be ugly, introducing a layer of depravity that brings stress to the self and to others. Defiance manifests itself in indifference to others, rebelling against morality of a civilization, abuse, extravagance, unaccountability, anger, slaughter, and stubbornness.

Discomfort manifests itself in an uneasy spirit, a sense of churning within, a state of isolation and perhaps resentment. What is one to do? Swindoll agrees with Dr. Peck (1) Examine the self, (2) Choose to be challenged, (3) Be honest.

## Conclusion

What if this were the *last hour* of our life? What would we choose to do or be or think? How could we reduce the stress fractures of our anxiety-ridden existence? Perhaps the theologian John Brown has a clue when he stated: "Holiness does not consist in mystic speculations, enthusiastic fervors, or uncommanded austerities; it consists in thinking as God thinks and willing as God wills" (102).



***Stress Fractures: Biblical Splints For Everyday Pressures* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**

## Out of the Past

### Gleanings from the 1954 Issues of *The Free Will Baptist*

The Rev. Floyd B. Cherry, editor of the Free Will Baptist Press, has received notice of his election to the General Council of the National Sunday School Association, a national organization composed of evangelical groups interested in Sunday School work.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

After nine years of service, the Rev. Clarence Bowen has resigned as pastor of the East Nashville, Tennessee Church. The resignation was read to the congregation on January 24, and became effective Easter Sunday.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

On April 21 groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted at Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, NC, for the construction of a new tabernacle with a seating capacity of 500. Those taking part in the ceremonies were: the Rev. Wayne Smith, the Rev. James Evans, the Rev. L. E. Ballard, D. L. Massey, the Rev. Wade Calvert, and the Rev. J. C. Moye.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The East Carolina College Free Will Baptist Student Fellowship, Greenville, NC, is an organization of the Free Will Baptist students attending East Carolina College which encourages Christian fellowship on the college campus. This fellowship meets each Monday afternoon at 5:30, at the Greenville Free Will Baptist parsonage.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The Cape Fear Conference of North Carolina will celebrate its Centennial, November 4-5, at Casey's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. The conference centennial sermon will be delivered by the Rev. C. F. Bowen.

### ***Attention Pastors Plan to Attend The Model Church Seminar, High Point, NC, April 18, 1998***

Your church can be a growing church, and you can design the path for growth by attending the *Model Church Seminar* offered by *Injoy*. This event is useful in equipping pastors, staff, and church leaders for effective service. It is practical, not theoretical; and it is structured in such a way that the material is applicable to churches of all sizes. Bring your entire ministry team and you'll be energized as never before. What's more, you'll leave with a set of useful tools and powerful ideas to implement immediately.

If you are interested in attending the Seminar, led by Dr. Stan Toler, please contact the Convention Headquarters, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Phone (919) 746-4963.

**Registration deadline: March 26, 1998**

**Registration fee: \$59.00**



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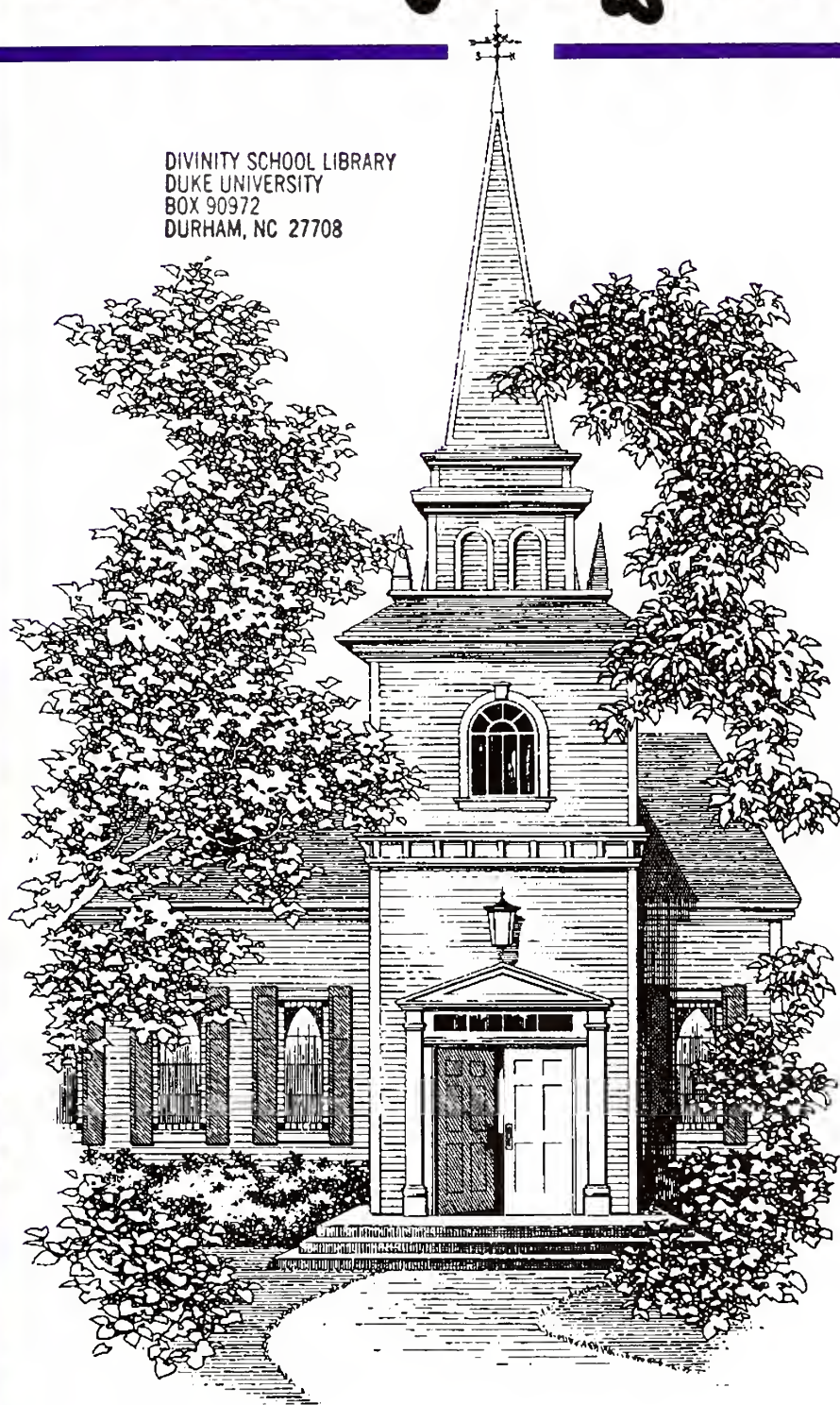
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April 1998



## Reminiscing Time

As we grow older, we are inclined to do some reminiscing. Having been in the ministry for nearly forty-six years with a rather diversified life, I'm finding it easy to think back. It has been said that each life is a story, but few are every really told. Many people live in obscurity, and their names are never known beyond their own cycle of life. Each one, however, fills his/her niche in life. Such is true of many persons I have known and worked with throughout the years.

The picture on last month's cover of *The Free Will Baptist* has brought about some reminiscing concerning my early years at the "Press." Since I have on several occasions written about the circumstances of my decision to enter into this work in 1957, I will not review it now. Instead, I will endeavor to share some of my impressions of the operations of the "Press."

The entire printing process has always been one of fascination. From the editing of manuscripts through the final printed page was, and is now, a fascinating process. Once it gets into your system, it somehow never leaves. You will always remember the special sounds of the machinery, as well as the mingling odor of ink and paper and melting lead.

One of the most amazing machines in the printing and publishing industry of past years was the Linotype. With a limited terminology, and without actually seeing one in operation, it would be most difficult to describe them. The term, "Linotype," is "a trademark used for a machine that sets type on a metal slug, operated by a keyboard," as defined in *The American Heritage College Dictionary*. (Any of the popular encyclopedias contains detailed information about a Linotype.) It was the ultimate typesetting machine. Quite often back then groups would visit the "Press" and we would walk them through the operation. It was the Linotype that drew their attention. This was especially true with school groups. The linotypist would sometimes "set" the student's name on a line of type, and then pass it to them. With pride they would take it, only to find that it was still rather warm, and sometimes too hot to handle.

The Linotype operators in last month's cover picture are Mr. Graham Oliver and Mr. David (Dave) Cavanaugh. Mr. Oliver is deceased. Dave and his wife, Eula, reside in Ayden and are members of Ayden Free Will Baptist Church. Dave has served as a deacon for several years. He has always been a special friend. Due to recent declining health, he has not been able to attend church.

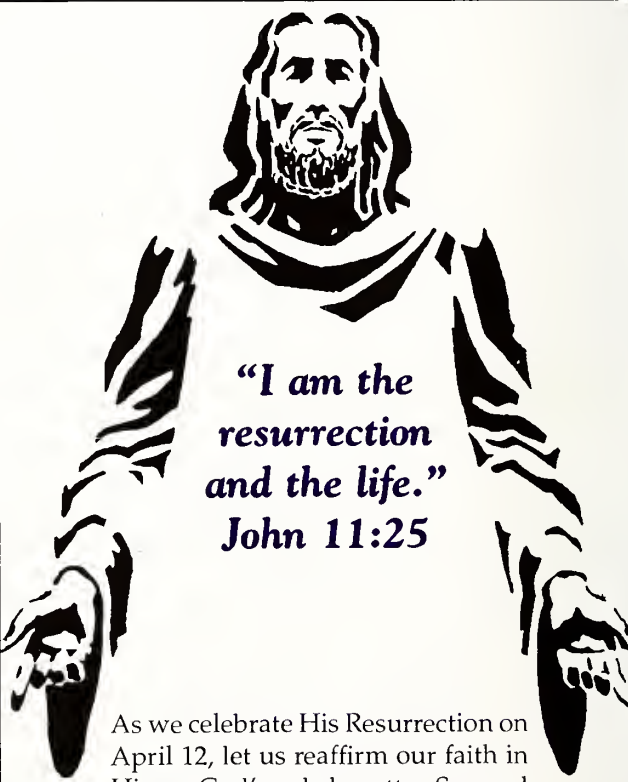
There were several Linotype operators who were employed at the "Press" during those years. It was not

unusual for an employee to perform several functions, from typesetting, to page make-up, or the operation of the flat-bed press. One of those versatile employees

was Mr. Wade Long who gave many years of service to the Free Will Baptist Press. Wade was very precise and accurate in everything he did, and did not waste time on any given task. He was an active member of the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church. In fact, he was serving on the pulpit committee when I agreed to accept the pastorate of the church in 1971. He was the one who first approached me, asking me if I would be interested. Like all those I worked with from 1957 until 1969, Wade and his family were very special friends. There are others that could be mentioned who made their contributions to the ministry of the "Press." Before this 125th anniversary year ends, we will refer to others.



*C. H. Overman*



**"I am the  
resurrection  
and the life."  
John 11:25**

As we celebrate His Resurrection on April 12, let us reaffirm our faith in Him as God's only begotten Son and our virgin-born, resurrected Lord and Saviour. It is not a matter of human rationalization; it is a matter of faith and truth.

## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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## NEXT MONTH

*May is  
Children's Home  
Month*

*April is  
Home Missions and  
Evangelism Month*



## WHAT OUR WORLD NEEDS MOST

### THE VIVIAN B. HARRISON MEMORIAL LECTURE

by Dr. Pepper Worthington, Writer-in-Residence, Mount Olive College



Dr. E. Glenn Henson

On Tuesday morning of February 24, 1998, I found myself sitting in Rodgers Chapel to hear the guest lecturer for the Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture at Mount Olive College. A tall, thin white-haired man stood to speak, his voice quivering as if from age, his eyes bright as if from sunlight taken inward. It was morning and he was awake. Thoreau would have liked his face.

"Let us think about the inner preparation for the Christian on the edge of a new millennium," began Dr. E. Glenn Henson. His eyes flashed as he glazed across Rodgers Chapel where Free Will Baptist

ministers, guests, and students sat as if waiting for thunder.

"Ministry is tough!" he exclaimed.

He then referred to 1 Timothy 4:12: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

"Now Paul's letter to Timothy is a daunting challenge to Christians today, isn't it?" he asked, his white hair popping out.

"We have problems in our age. Our politicians and preachers are parading to prison. People are having trouble with moral discernment. Jim Baker just didn't get his arithmetic right. Jimmy Swaggart was busy getting a minister defrocked for sexual indiscretion when he himself was visiting women in New Orleans which is seven miles from Baton Rouge," he noted.

"We live in an age of incredible violence. People are involved in drugs. We live in an age of broken commitments. Covenants are broken almost before they are made. We live in an age

when sex is used to sell products. What are we to do?" he asked.

"I am here today to speak to all of you about an *inner preparation* to go out into this world. I am drawn to Thomas Merton's question when he wondered what we have to offer the world that the world doesn't already have. Our world already has more than it needs. What can we offer the world?" he asked.

He allowed the question to drop into the conscious, then unconscious mind.

"We must realize," he continued, "that there is something beyond ourselves. There is something in our midst that we don't have within ourselves. Only Divine Love can give us the competence we lack ourselves. Our competence is from God. When we do not know what to say, we turn to God to give us the words. When we do not know what to do, we turn to God to give us the deeds. A minister becomes the channel of Divine Love's energies, allowing the *agape* to flow through us into our activities, our attitudes, our deeds," he announced, his voice kin to a song, as if joy radiated his words. He was fully present.

"Our competence is from God and not from ourselves," he stressed. "God has chosen such vessels as you and me to be Christians not because we are powerful but because we are powerless. The power people are the wealthy, the Egyptians and Babylonians of the Bible. God did not choose them. God's way is to choose the powerless, the nothing, in order to nullify the something. Christians are the clay pots which carry the power of God. Why? Because the clay pots are so ordinary that the power from them would not be mistaken. The Graeco-Roman vessels were made of fine silver and glass. Everyday vessels, on the other hand, were made of red clay. These red clay vessels were God's choice because the transcendent power of God might be visible from God and not from us. God uses the powerless so people might see the *transparent power of God* and not the *beauty, power, and wealth of people*," he explained.

Briefly, Dr. Henson described the demise of Marxism as a collapse from within. "Marxism left no place for the transcendent, and we as human beings know that faith matters more than a government system, the Berlin Wall, or any political scheme," he said.

"You may wonder whether what you're doing really matters because you can't see what



you do in *visible ways*. But the Christian life matters more than anything because our lives may be a window from which to see God. God has chosen us, the earthen vessels, to make visible the transcendent power of God and not our power," he stressed.

"How then are we to strengthen the inner life?" he asked. "We need to focus upon three procedures. We need a long-range goal first. We need to extend beyond ourselves in order to participate in the life of God. Augustine reminds us in *Confessions* that we shall be restless until we find rest in God. We must search for God and at the same time God seeks us," he said.

"Secondly, we must discover a way to move toward God. Some change must occur in us. We must seek a *purity of heart* so that the fruits of righteousness live in our lives. We need the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control. We need to become transparent and transformed," he declared.

In stressing the search for God and the need for purity of heart, Dr. Hinson laughed as he reminded us that salvation was a gift, one already given, and one not dependent upon what we leave behind.

"Third, God will accept us in our imperfections," he said. "The only perfect person I thought I knew in the world was my wife until I married her. Then I saw her squeeze the toothpaste in the middle of the tube."

Everyone laughed. The wind beat against the roof as shadows crossed ceiling beams.

"We need a sense of things that matter," continued Dr. Hinson. "There are two directions we must consider. We must be able to distinguish right from wrong. And we must have a proper sense of priorities. Our age seems to have a problem with both of these. Look at the crack, LSD, and murders in Richmond. Even Clinton is having a problem here. And our priorities are mixed up. The psychology in advertising is to create artificial and contrived needs to sell a product. Did you know that the Marlboro man pleaded with Philip Morris to stop using him in advertisements? He died from lung cancer and he is still being used," he reported.

"How do we establish right from wrong and our priorities? There is only one answer," he said. "God's love in you may increase more and more in understanding and in every sensitivity. God's *agape* in you needs to grow so that understanding and sensibility will grow. Prayer life is about this inner growth. Inner life is about opening like a flower to the morning sun to allow God's love energies to flow in us, to

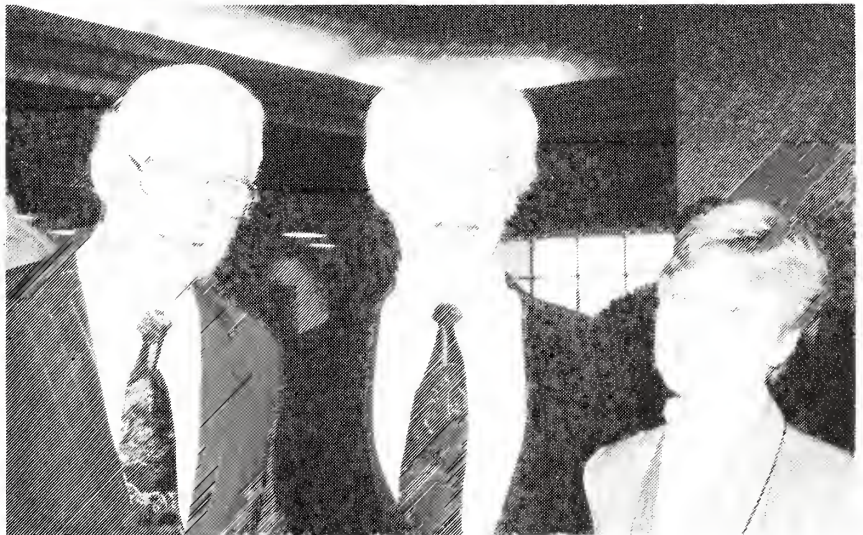
strengthen us, to develop in us our inner life so that we do what we should do and we become what we should be," he stressed.

As he looked out over the audience in Rodgers Chapel, he asked, "Did you know that there are more than 150 billion galaxies in our universe?" He silently open his mouth wide, making a giant O.

"But the God of 150 billion galaxies is not the most overwhelming thing. The most overwhelming thing is that God of 150 billion galaxies cares about me, cares about you," he said.

As he swayed from side to side, his white hair bobbing, he spoke the words of his favorite old spiritual, "He's got the whole world in His hands." He paused.

"Life has storms. Look at what happened to Florida a few nights ago. Physical storms hurt. So do psychological and spiritual storms. Sometimes we withdraw, close up, pull in. It becomes hard to open up again. We feel anxious. The only people who have no anxiety about anything are in the cemetery. But our inner life can reach for God. God is here for us. The *Shalom* of God can throw a guard around our hearts and minds. *Shalom* is deep down security. You know," he added, "I remember waking up in the morning as a boy. Daylight would filter into my bedroom from the slit under the shade. That daylight would refract throughout the room until I could see everything. A tiny bit of light made all visible. The love of God is like that tiny bit of light. That love can give us inner peace, open us up to love others, free us to stretch like a flower to the morning sunshine, make us conduits of God's love energies. To develop the inner life is



Left to right, Dr. Michael Pelt, Dr. E. Glenn Hinson, and Tyanna Day

Cont. on page 4



essential. Swedish Dag Hammarskjöld (1905–1961) was seen as a strong diplomat for the United Nations, but did you know that he was a deeply meditative man? Read his *Markings*. We all need to write and meditate. If we are mad, we may need to go into a closet and cuss. But the more we develop our inner life, the more real will God's love be and increase. Then we will have a sense of right and wrong. Then we will know what our priorities are. Then we will discover peace. Then we will feel the fruits of God's love," he concluded.

### **CHAPEL**

"Saints are what the world needs most," stated Dr. Hinson in his message to students and guests of Mount Olive College during worship service in Rodgers Chapel. "Let's call attention to living saints from Augustine to John Wooman who was a Quaker and traveled the American colonies to ask Quakers to free their slaves. Living saints include Martin Luther King, Jr. and Thomas Merton, people whose lives can be placed before us as models whom we might emulate," he said.

"Saints," he continued, "are not extraordinary persons, not geniuses, not perfect persons. What are saints then?" he asked.

"First," he answered, "saints are persons whose lives are radiated by God's grace. Dag Hammarskjöld is a saint who said 'yes' to someone and to something," he explained.

"Second, saints are persons who have learned how to get along somehow, how to deal with adversity, how to persevere.

"Third, saints are persons who seek not to be safe, but to be faithful. Mother Theresa (1910–1997) was known to say that God did not call her to be successful. God called her to be faithful.

"Fourth, saints are dream-filled. They are originators of dreams. They act out those dreams. They kindle the dreams of others.

"Fifth, saints are *joyful*. Our New England ancestors sought to make everyone as doleful as they were. But

saints are hilarious.

"Sixth, saints are prayerful people. They are people who have opened their lives to the infinite love of God. They are transformed people, created to carry on the work of God.

"Now I ask you, can such persons make a difference in the world?" He eyed the audience.

To intensify his emphasis upon the powerless as vessels of sainthood, Dr. Hinson spoke of O. C. Marsh, a man who was kind to him in his own childhood. When he was four years old, O. C. Marsh slipped a little perch on his fishing line. Dr. Hinson felt the compassion, humility, and wisdom of his elder friend. He learned faithfulness from this ordinary saint who *lived his religion*.

Two other saints came to mind in his analysis of sainthood: St. Francis of Assisi and Mother Theresa.

Francis of Assisi was born in 1182 in the home of a wealthy family. His father was a successful cloth merchant and Francis was a dutiful son. When Francis found himself outfitted for war and off to fight, he was captured and put in prison for a year before his father paid his ransom.

The year in prison changed him.

When he returned home, he rode his horse. When a leper cried out, he jumped down from his horse, embraced the leper, and kissed him. He began to notice the homeless at the gates of Assisi. He begged his father for money to give to the poor. His father became concerned. He thought Francis had been exposed to the beams of the moon at the wrong time. Francis was a lunatic, surely. His father locked him in a closet for two weeks. His mother let him out. When his father unbraided him in front of the cathedral of Assisi, Francis was horrified. His father said to Francis, "Everything you have, I have given you." Francis proceeded to strip before his father. He walked away naked.

From 1201 to 1206 Francis collected a following. He was concerned about peace. In 1204 the Fourth Crusade had turned against the Eastern Christian Empire and reduced it to a tiny kingdom. In 1212 young boys and girls

were sent on Crusades singing the hymn, *Fairest Lord Jesus*. Francis began a peace movement that by 1219 wore him out. He died in 1226 at the age of 44. By 1276 the senseless Crusades had come to an end. Did the world need Francis of Assisi?

Mother Theresa was born in 1910 in Albania. She also came from an affluent family. She was educated by the Sisters of Loreto. At 10, she heard a missionary speak about the plight of people in India. From the age of 12 to 18, she had a deep desire to be a missionary to the people in India. When she was in Calcutta, she saw a near-lifeless corpse. She had the sense that God was saying to her that she had to go to the poorest of the poor. She left the Sisters of Loreto and opened a school for orphans. She found a place next to a Hindu temple that served as a place for the dying. She washed wounds and worked with the stench of people to show love and kindness. The Sisters of Charity of Calcutta have spread throughout the world. They care for the poorest of the poor. In 1979 Mother Theresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

"Peacemaking begins with the smallest act of love, with doing something to bring the love of God to the life of another person. Does the world need Mother Theresa?" asked Dr. Hinson.

"Our world needs saints more than ridiculously high paid basketball players," he announced. "Our world needs saints more than brilliant scientists. Our world needs saints more than overpaid entertainers. Our world needs saints more than clever businessmen. Saints are all around. Ordinary saints are out there. Ordinary saints are people whose lives have been radiated by the grace of God's love. Ordinary saints are people who keep on keeping on. Ordinary saints are people who seek not to be safe but to be faithful. Ordinary saints are people whose inner life opens them like a flower to the morning sun. Deep within us we hear from saints that God loves us with infinite love, that God can transform us. Our world needs saints most," he concluded.

# Life for A Look

The love of life is a driving force in all men's lives, and this is as it should be. God expects man to live a full, joyous and radiant life; but there are multitudes who have never found this life in Christ. Certainly, they love and are loved in return, but full and complete love is found in Christ alone. He who loves much without Christ, loves much more with Christ.

We live in a busy world — a world of toil and confusion. We are busy making a living, busy with making a name, concerned with our social standings; therefore, our generation is inclined to forget that the day will come when we'll take time to die. It is imperative that man consider something other than the material and earthly. There is something for which man must make preparation — *eternity and God*.

God says, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22). How do we, as finite human beings, look unto God? Can we see Him upon looking? What would He have us see? To begin with, He has only one medium or plan of salvation. There is no alternate selection. God is still saying to man, "Look unto Me," and we look unto Him through Christ Jesus. Even then, however, we do not see God through the physical eye. Instead, we see Him through the eye of faith, and faith alone. Thomas, one of the disciples, refused to believe that Christ was risen, until he saw Him. Christ thus said to Thomas, "...because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

To see or perceive the plan of redemption in Christ, we must see the complete picture. The Cross always reminds us of suffering, pain, and death; and it was God's Son who suffered there for us. We see, however far, more than the physical suffering. We see God reconciling us unto Himself through Christ Jesus. We see Jesus who was "...wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

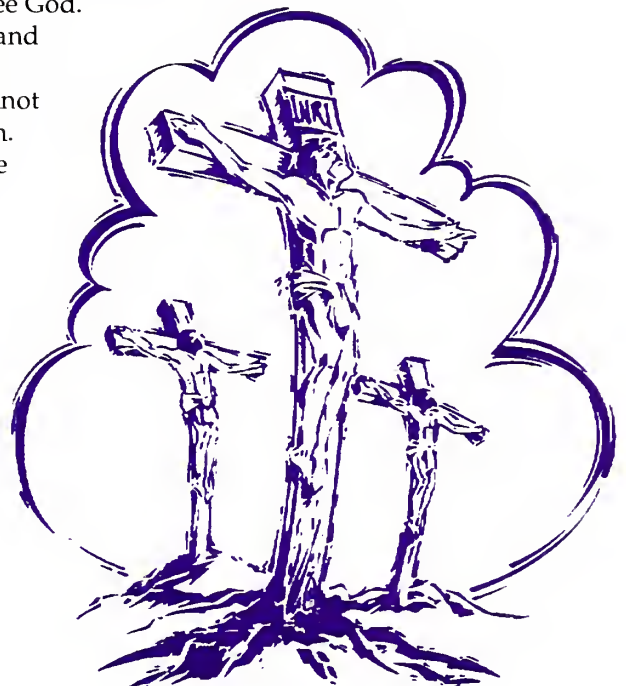
Seeing Christ, however, does not stop or end with the Cross. As we approach Easter Sunday, we once again remind our hearts and souls that not only did Christ die, but He also arose from the grave and thus won the victory over death and the grave. His victory assures

us of the same victory which He won. Even before His death He said to His disciples: "...because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19). The disciples could not understand the words of Jesus relative to His death and Resurrection, and they did not understand until He ascended back to His Father and the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost. His betrayal, trial, crucifixion and death were mysteries to them. His mother, and the other women who loved Him dearly, stood by the Cross in shrouded sorrow and tears; for to them hope was vanishing. The promised Messiah was suffering the defeat of the Cross and their loss was great, but God had not forsaken them. Instead, He was simply saying through the trials, "Look unto Me." They looked and hoped until the third morning after His death, and then their despair was turned to hope and then reality; for Christ had come forth out of the tomb. The days that followed were days of joy and long awaited power. He appeared unto many, and each in turn testified to the truth of His Resurrection. Soon there were many believers and finally the Early Church arose, bearing witness that He is alive for evermore. With God, the invitation is the same, "Look unto Me."

God is saying to our nation this Easter season, "Turn to Me and be saved." Many do not have time for God, but still He invites and pleads with man. Look to the Cross, and in thus looking, we see Christ and in seeing Christ, we see God.

When we see Him and realize what he has done for us, we cannot help but desire Him. In desiring Him, we seek Him, and in seeking Him we find Him. In finding Him we have life — spiritual life — and we are saved from the condemnation of sin. In Him there is life for a look.

(by C. H. Overman, Editorial, April 30, 1960, *The Free Will Baptist*)





# Camp Vandemere

## Our Family Enrichment Center

Not much has been happening at the camp in the last few weeks, but this is about to change. With spring weather coming, the camp will soon be as busy as ever. We are looking forward to a great year. The schedule is already beginning to fill, promising to be a good year.

Let me ask you, parents, to encourage your children to come to camp this year. Camp is a time for fun, excitement, but also a time for Bible instruction. It's important for our young people to get a good foundation in God's word. It will help mold them into future leaders that we will need for our churches. At camp they are able to get away from the many things that occupy their time and allows them to concentrate on the Lord. They have a chance to hear the Bible on a level that they can relate too. Check the schedule and decide which week they would like to attend; all of them are good weeks.

Let me tell you of a very important change in our schedule concerning our all-day gospel sing. It has been changed to Saturday, August 1. This was necessary so we could get all the groups that we felt you would enjoy hearing. Keep watching *The Free Will Baptist* for more information about this event. There will be a lot going on that day from singing to eating, not to mention the fellowship. Mark your calendars and come on down for the day.

Several churches have made plans to have some type of fund raiser for the camp this spring. We want to say thank you in advance for this. This will be a big help to the camp. Camping fees just cover the expenses for a camper for the week. The board tries to keep the fees as low as possible so our young people will be able to attend. Because of this the camp depends on fund raisers and gifts from our churches to provide the funds we need for upkeep and future projects. If you would like to have a fish fry for the benefit of the camp, we will be glad to furnish the fish if you will

contact us.

Let me mention our new beds again. We have plans to build twenty new bunk beds for the camp. These will be built so we can use a regular twin-size mattress. Some of you have suggested that we build these beds a little wider than the others as well as lower to the floor. When we complete these new beds we will need forty new mattresses which will cost approximately \$60.00 each. We are asking you, the friends of the camp, to help us with this project. You never know when you might be going to the camp and would like to sleep on one of these new beds.

Also, coming up in the near future will be our annual clean-up day on Saturday, April 18, beginning as soon as you want to start. I say it that way because some like to start early and some like to start a little later. There are a variety of things that need to be done to help us get the camp ready. We need someone to mow grass, use weed-eaters, rake up pine cones, pick up limbs, and do general yard work. We also need the ladies to come and help us with washing windows, sweeping, and the things that need a lady's touch. Maybe we will have new curtains to be put up that day also. I understand that someone is making new curtains for both sides of the dorms, while others

are making them for the lobby. Certainly they are needed and will be greatly appreciated. It's friends like you that we are very thankful to have; may God bless you and your efforts. If you can't come that day and would be able to come some other time, please contact our manager. There is always a need for helpers at the camp. One church has already scheduled a day to help other than the clean-up day.

We want you to be much in prayer for the camp and its board of directors. We are trying very hard to be good stewards of what you and the Lord have given us. There is so much that needs to be done, and can be done, to glorify our Lord and we want to be sure that we do His will. Pray for us and come and visit your camp by the sea.

By the Rev. Owen Arthur

Manager: Mr. Adrick Gaskins  
919-637-4949 (Home)  
919-745-3171 (Camp Phone)

Treasurer: Mrs. Judith Kennedy  
910-298-4311 (Home)

Chairman: The Rev. Owen Arthur  
919-633-1185 (Home)

General Manager: The Rev. Ralph Sumner 910-298-5885 (Home)

### HOOPS FOR CHRIST

#### 3 ON 3 TOURNAMENT



\$30 registration fee per team.

**1:00 PM  
APRIL 4, 1998**

Camp Vandemere invites you to the 3rd Annual "Hoops For Christ" basketball tournament. The tournament will be three-on-three with a thirty-minute time limit. You may register by sending the names of participants to the Rev. Tim Heath at 601 Turkey Point Road, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460. For more information call 910-327-2850.

**TO BE HELD AT:**  
**SANDY PLAINS**  
**ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**HWY 241, BEULAVILLE, NC**



# Layman's League

## Central Conference Layman's League

The Central Conference Layman's League met March 2, 1998, at Kings Crossroad Original Free Will Baptist Church, Farmville, NC. Twenty-two churches were represented, with a total attendance of 168. Nineteen ministers were also present.

## Dates to Remember

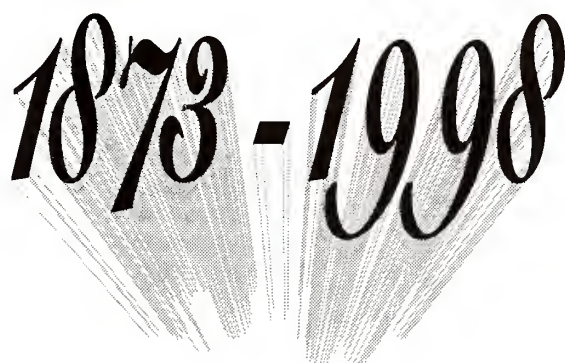
- April 2 Promotional Committee Meeting, VFW Building, 106 Hines Street, Snow Hill, 7:30 PM.  
May 2 State Layman's League, Free Union Church, Walstonburg, 7:00 PM.  
May 7 Executive Board, VFW Building, 106 Hines Street, Snow Hill, 7:30 PM.  
May 23 State Layman's League Singspiration, Harrells Chapel, Snow Hill, 6:00 PM. (Please call Elmer Harrell, 747-2894, if you or a group from your church would like to sing.)  
June 5-6 Spiritual Life Retreat, Camp Vandemere.



Bill Moore addresses the Layman.



Paul Beamman passes out information to the Central Conference Layman.



*Celebrating 125 Years of Service to  
Original Free Will Baptists*



# **Annual Prayer Retreat For Harvest Helpers**



Saturday — April 25, 1998

9:00 AM — 12:15 PM

**HOLIDAY INN**

Conference Room

Highway 70 East, Kinston, North Carolina

9:00 AM

Breakfast Buffet

\$6.00 per person, All You Can Eat

## **PROGRAM**

- Inspirational with Music and Meditation
- Praying for Original Free Will Baptists
- Introduction to "Avenues for Action Through Prayer"
- Learn About:
  - Celebrate Jesus 2000
  - How to Begin an Aaron's Prayer Band
  - Praying for Our Nation
  - Women in Prayer
  - Personal Victory Through Prayer
  - Children Praying Too

***Don't Forget to send in your Attendance Form Today!***

For more information contact Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or call (919) 746-4963

# Good Shepherd Sunday

April 26, 1998

Pray and  
Give for  
Home Missions  
and Evangelism



- Church Planting
- Ethnic Missions
- Deaf Missions
- Spanish Missions

- Scripture Distribution
- Disaster Relief
- Project Kids Care
- Harvest Covenant Program

**Celebrating**  
**25 Years of Expanding His Kingdom**



Home Missions and Evangelism  
PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513 • (919) 746-4963



## TODAY / TOMORROW

Someone has said, "Before you know it, Tomorrow will be Today." We as Christians and as a church should ever be reminded that Christ could come at any moment, therefore, we must do whatever we're going to do Today. Today we must reach every soul we have the opportunity to reach and build every church we can build. "The night is fast falling when now man can work."

Before we know it — the children we reach today will be adults tomorrow. The young adults will be retired tomorrow. Every church growth consultant advises us that the best years to reach the lost are before they reach the age of eighteen (18). "TODAY is the day of Salvation." Will you help us TODAY to Touch Lives for a Lifetime?

For twenty-five (25) years, the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism has been assigned the task to follow the Great Commission in making disciples on the home front. Your investment in this ministry assures a continued thrust in Planting Churches TODAY.

Today we are Expanding His Kingdom for Tomorrow as follows:

### A. HOME MISSIONS/CHURCH PLANTING

CrossRidge — Hope Mills, North Carolina — Director/  
Pastor, Al Markuson

Hillside — Grifton, North Carolina — Director/Pastor,  
Eldon Brock

Charity — Whiteville, North Carolina — Supply Pastor,  
Freddie Edwards

Old Canoe Creek — St. Cloud, Florida

Park Lane — Havelock, North Carolina — Dr. A. Graham  
Lane



*Church Planting*

### B. ETHNIC MISSIONS

H'mongs (10 worship groups), California

H'mong Youth Camp, California

Cambodian Mission/Church — Moreno Valley,  
California

K'hmu Mission/Church — High Point, North Carolina

### C. SPANISH MISSIONS

2 churches with worship  
groups, 8 counties  
with Scripture  
distribution (New  
work) 2 churches.

### D. DEAF MISSIONS

Covenant of the Deaf —  
Hope Mills, North  
Carolina.



*Spanish Missions*

### EVANGELISM

#### A. CHURCH GROWTH

a. Video ("Church Growth Kit for the Small Church")

b. In-reach Ministry



*Church Growth*

#### B. FAITH SHARING

a. Out-reach Ministry

b. Invitational Visitation



*Ethnic Missions*



## C. DISCIPLESHIP — (AIM) Associates in Ministry

### D. COMMISSION ON SCOUTING

A Resource for the Church — The church has become deeply concerned about providing a program under Christian leadership that reaches into a youth's own world to guide his conduct and mold his character as he engages in leisure time activities.

Churches are finding that the Boy Scouts of America offers such a program. Scouting is an ideal resource available to churches to compliment or expand their work in an multifaceted ministry to youth.



*Scouting*



*Mobile Ministry*

### E. MOBILE MINISTRY

- a. It was never the directive of Christ that His churches confine their activities inside a church house located at a certain street intersection. It was His plan that the churches go out after the lost. The early evangelists carried the gospel to the people and did not wait for the people to come seeking the gospel. One of the greatest parables Jesus ever told was meant to urge His followers to "go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city...Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in." The evangelism

of the New Testament church was: a roadside, wellside, seaside, bedside, tableside, outside-the-doors evangelism.

- b. TLC (Touching Lives Corps) College students, single adults, married couples, Senior Citizens.

—Persons who desire to do Home Missions endeavors for a weekend, a week, or a month.

—Persons who are willing to be responsible for the raising of their own financial support for a Home Missionary "enterprise," may apply. If they are accepted, they will serve in the Touching Lives Corps.

### F. TAAC — Telling Americans About Christ.

Membership is composed of ordained ministers who have responded to a special call as an evangelist.

Purpose: To tell the "Good News" through

- a. Crusade Evangelism
- b. Youth Evangelism Crusades
- c. Local Church Evangelistic Services
- d. Evangelism Training in Local Churches

### G. HARVEST COVENANT

The declining attendance in our churches and Sunday schools should call our attention to the fact that our people are not receiving what they desire from our worship and educational programs. Do we know where to begin to turn the declining church into a functioning and growing church?

Each Original Free Will Baptist Church could pinpoint its strengths and weaknesses. Not any of our churches are good at everything. However, all of our churches can improve our worship services, Christian educational methods and outreach ministry.

The HARVEST COVENANT program is designed to help our churches find the unique opportunities for developing a functioning, growing church for the cause of the Kingdom.

HARVEST COVENANT takes church growth to a new level — those who participate will develop skills of working, sharing and growing in Christian love.



*Harvest Covenant*



# Scouting

makes the difference!



## ***Did You Know...***

1/3 of all persons arrested for a serious crime are under 18 years of age. People under 18 account for nearly half of our burglary and auto thefts. 600 young people can be involved in Scouting for a year for the cost of processing one young person through juvenile court and housing him or her in an institution.

## ***For every 100 boys who join Scouting,***

- 12 will have their first contact with a church
- 1 will enter the clergy
- 2 will become Eagle Scouts
- 1 will save a life with his Scouting skills
- 8 will enter professions first learned through the merit badge program.

## COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION SELF-STUDY



Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Box 249

Middlesex, NC 27557

March 1, 1998

The final draft of our self-study was mailed the first week in March. Two big notebooks of information about the Children's Home were mailed to the Council in New York. The mailed manuals were a result of a lot of examination and introspection by the staff at the Children's Home.

The next phase will require us to make sure everything is in tip-top shape by June. Peer Reviewers will visit our campus to observe our facilities, our programs for the children on campus, and the business operations of the home.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to work toward improving and refining what God has blessed us with and striving to make it the very best.

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*May is  
Children's Home  
Month*

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## State Cottage Renovations

State Cottage is getting ready for Spring with some fresh paint, carpet, and counters. Mr. Batchelor and his crew have been working for several weeks getting rid of the old and bringing in the new.



*Inside of the State Cottage*

## Annual Change for Children Campaign

The first campaign for our "Change For Children" was a big success last year. For small children, moms, dads, to grandma and grandpa, pastors, teachers, choir members, and deacons, everyone had the opportunity to contribute. This campaign made it possible for all Free Will Baptist to become more informed about their Child Care ministry and have an important part in its support.

We are extending the invitation to everyone again this year, to put aside your extra change for the month of May 1998. We are excited about this year's campaign. It is amazing what God achieves when we work together according to His purpose.

In April, your pastor will receive the information and materials to begin this campaign the first Sunday in May. Save your change and at the end of the month of May, the total amount of money from each church will be sent to the Children's Home.

During the campaign, your pastor will provide information about the Children's Home each Sunday. We will provide Scriptures and facts about the Home for your pastor to share with you.

Please pray for us and our campaign.

## In April at Mount Olive College

- April 3 Wayne County Society Dinner for Mount Olive College, Murphy Regional Center, 7:00 PM
- April 6 Arts Alliance — Elliott Engel featuring the life and poetry of Robert Frost, the Paramount Theater in Goldsboro, free, no tickets, first come, first seated, 8:00 PM
- April 8 MOC Trojans vs. Kinston Indians, Grainger Stadium, Kinston, 7:30 PM
- April 16 Mount Olive College Singers Spring Fling — 25th Anniversary, Murphy Regional Center, 8:00 PM.
- April 19 Spring Pops Concert by Mount Olive Community Instrumental Ensemble and Sunday Buffet, Murphy Regional Center (Buffet — \$6 for adults, \$3 for children) 12:30 PM
- April 23 Awards Day, Rodgers Chapel, 11:00 AM
- April 23 Athletic Award Banquet, Murphy Regional Center, 6:30 PM
- April 24 Mount Olive College Concert Choir's Spring Concert, Rodgers Chapel, 8:00 PM
- April 25 FWB Bible Bowl and Talent Competition, All Day



Sponsored by the Board of Foreign Missions, the Annual World Missions Conference was held at Mount Olive College Sunday, March 1. Willem and Lydia van der Plas, missionaries to Eastern Europe, spoke and were well-received by more than 750 Free Will Baptists in College Hall.



## *Barrow Family Gives \$422,000 to Mount Olive College*



*Mr. and Mrs. Taft Barrow*

Mount Olive College announces receiving a bequest of \$422,000 from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Taft Barrow. It will be used to establish the Barrow Family Endowed Fund.

The Rev. N. Bruce Barrow of Snow Hill, brother of Mr. Taft Barrow, announced the gift at a luncheon during the Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture, an annual day-long event for the development of ministers and church lay leaders, on February 24, 1998.

According to the wishes of the Barrow family, the \$422,000 bequest will be combined with previous gifts from other Barrow family members and assets from the estate of Taft and Belle S. Barrow, yet to be distributed. To date the fund totals \$438,000 — with the college receiving checks for \$400,000 just recently, \$22,000 in June 1997, and \$16,000 in smaller amounts over the last 18 years.

The college will invest and manage the money. Income produced from the investment will be used by the college "for the advancement of the Christian faith" in three specified areas. First, the endowment will be used to establish the Barrow Professorship in Biblical Studies in the Department of Religion. This represents the first endowed professorship at Mount Olive College.

Second, the endowment will provide for one or more scholarships for ministers and lay persons who are preparing for the work of advancing the Christian faith. And third, the

income from the endowment fund will be used by the Barrow Family Endowed Professor to develop programs, such as courses, conferences, workshops and seminars on and off campus to educate and develop ministers and church lay leaders. Although the Barrow family had deep roots in the Free Will Baptist Church, their stated wish is that the program be ecumenical, benefiting other Christian denominations as well.

An agreement signed by representatives of the Barrow family and the college specifies percentages of income produced by the investment to support the three areas. It also establishes an advisory committee to ensure that the provisions of the endowment are followed.

The Barrow family of Greene County has been closely associated with Mount Olive College from the beginning. The Rev. N. Bruce Barrow was a member of the college's first Board of Trustees, serving from 1953 to 1955. In 1970, his wife, Mrs. Alice Barrow, became a trustee and served on the board through 1993.

Two of their four children, Mrs. Jane B. Gainey, a public school teacher in Havelock and Mr. Nigle B. "Tex" Barrow, Jr., an attorney in Raleigh, are graduates of the college. And Tex Barrow currently serves as a member on the Board of Trustees.

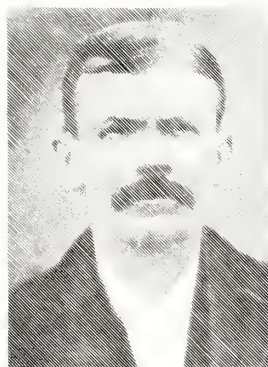
The Barrow family's support of Mount Olive College is an outgrowth of their devotion and service to the Free Will Baptist Church.

Mr. Taft Barrow died in 1993 and his wife, Mrs. Belle Barrow, died in 1995. At the time of their deaths, they were living in Denver, Colorado. Taft and Belle Barrow were the parents of a son, Kenneth Barrow of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and they had two grandchildren. Mr. Barrow was a retired insurance broker.

Plans for the Barrow Family Endowment began in 1980. At that time, Tex Barrow encouraged his uncle, Taft, to join him in setting up an endowment as a memorial to John Owen Barrow (1869-1947) and Ida Harrison Barrow (1874-1948), Taft and Bruce's parents, and Tex's grandparents. Taft agreed and made an initial contribution of \$100 in December, 1980.

Since then, the Rev. Barrow and his son, Tex Barrow, have worked with Dr. W. Burkette Raper, former college president and now director of planned giving, to develop the endowment.

"It has been my good fortune to know the Barrow family since my boyhood at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home," Dr. Raper said.



*John Owen Barrow  
(1869-1947)*



*Ida Harrison Barrow  
(1874-1948)*



"It was also my privilege to serve as their pastor at Hull Road Church in Greene County before coming to the college.

"This family is deeply rooted in the history and heritage of the Free Will Baptist Church, and their endowment will be a living legacy for the advancement of the Christian faith to generations yet unborn," Raper said. "Working with them in the planning and development of the Barrow Family Endowed Fund for Christian Ministries had been one of my most rewarding experiences."

"The establishment of a named professorship in religion is the first at

the college," said Dr. J. William Byrd, Mount Olive College president. "Therefore, it is a significant milestone in the history of our college.

"Furthermore, the endowment is sufficiently large and will produce income allowing for the award of scholarships to students and for the development of ecumenical programs to advance Christian faith and studies," Byrd said. "We are extremely grateful to the Barrow family for this very generous gift. I pledge that we at the college will manage it well, according to the wishes of the Barrow family, to the advancement of the Christian faith, and to the benefit of students." ■

## BARROW FAMILY ENDOWED FUND FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES Mount Olive College Mount Olive, North Carolina

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Barrow Family Endowed Fund for Christian Ministries was established as a memorial to John Owen Barrow (December 31, 1868 – December 30, 1947) and Ida Harrison Barrow (June 1, 1874 – January 19, 1948) and in honor and in memory of their children. The fund was established in appreciation of the faith that these two parents instilled in their children, which the children in turn shared with those around them. Mount Olive College was an appropriate institution with which to establish the Fund because of the close relationship between the college and church. The Fund was established to enhance the relationship between the college and the church and to promote Christian scholarship. At its creation, it was the hope that the Fund itself and its intended uses would encourage others to share in its mission. The persons remembered and honored in its creation shared a love of the Holy Scriptures. Others who have shared or will share in the growth of the fund expressed a particular interest in plans and means of advancing the Christian faith.

The ultimate purpose of the Fund is to glorify God and to enrich human life through Christian service.

### AGREEMENT

To fulfill and to carry out the purpose of the Barrow Family Endowed Fund for Christian Ministries, the following agreement is hereby entered into by representatives of the Barrow Family and Mount Olive College.

### Investment of Assets

Current assets, future gifts, bequests and assignments shall constitute the corpus of the Fund and shall be invested and managed according to policies approved by the Board of Trustees of Mount Olive College. The college shall declare annually the valuation of all assets of the Fund, and an amount not to exceed five percent (5%) of the valuation may be used for the purposes hereinafter stated. This five percent formula may be amended by the Board of Trustees only if a different formula is made applicable to all endowed funds managed by the college. All income in excess of five percent of valuation (or any future

formula set by the Board of Trustees) shall be added to the corpus of the Fund.

It is understood that the expressed intent of the donors is to establish a permanently endowed Fund that will provide income in perpetuity for the programs and services set forth in this agreement.

### Use of Income

It is the intent of the donors that the income from the Fund will be used to help provide personnel, programs and services for the advancement of the Christian Faith which otherwise would be beyond the resources for Mount Olive College. The Barrow Family wishes to help "raise the tide" in the education of ministers of the Gospel and in the development of Christian lay leaders. While it is envisioned that the Fund will nurture the relationship between the college and Original Free Will Baptists, the purpose of the Fund is ecumenical — to strengthen the outreach of the college to the larger Church.

Income from the Fund shall be budgeted and used as follows:

First: To fund in whole or in part a professorship in the Department of Religion which shall be designated the "Barrow Professorship in Biblical Studies." The work of the named professor shall include leadership and direction of the programs and services underwritten by the Fund and appropriate teaching assignments.

Second: To provide one or more scholarships for ministers and/or lay persons who wish to prepare for work which has as its primary purpose the advancement of the Christian Faith.

Up to seventy-five percent (75%) of the annual income from the Fund may be used for the above purposes as determined by the College.

Third: A minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the annual income from the Fund shall be used for the spiritual nurture of students, college personnel and the education of ministers and the development of

Cont. on next page



## MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Christian lay leaders. To achieve this objective, the Barrow Family Endowed Professor shall be responsible for planning and directing courses of study, conferences, workshops, seminars and other appropriate programs on campus and at off-campus sites that will most effectively fulfill the purpose of the Fund.

### Advisory Committee

There shall be a duly constituted and permanent Advisory Committee with which the administration of the college and the Barrow Family Endowed Professor shall consult relative to the provisions included in this Agreement. The Committee shall have established semi-annual meetings. Additional meetings may be held as mutually agreed upon.

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the college shall provide the Committee a proposed budget and a written plan for programs and services to be funded with income from the Fund. In addition, the college shall provide the Committee an annual financial report on the Fund which shall include the valuation along with income and disbursements for the previous fiscal year.

The purpose of the Committee shall be to provide information and recommendations on personnel, programs and services which will most effectively fulfill the purpose of the Fund.

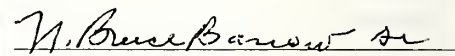
Membership of the Committee shall include:

- The Barrow Family Endowed Professor who shall convene the Committee and submit an annual written report on the work supported by the Fund;
- Representative from the Barrow Family to be chosen by the Barrow Family Reunion when persons selected by Taft Barrow can no longer serve;
- Representative from the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists chosen by its Executive Committee;
- Representative from the state Women's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists chosen by its Executive Committee;
- Representative from the North Carolina Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists chosen by its Executive Committee;
- A lay person chosen by the Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists;
- Two representatives chosen by Mount Olive College from Christian denominations other than Original Free Will Baptists; and
- Other representatives as may be chosen by the Advisory Committee.
- Ex-officio representatives from Mount Olive College, including  
Chair, Department of Religion,  
Campus Minister, and  
President.

### ACCEPTANCE

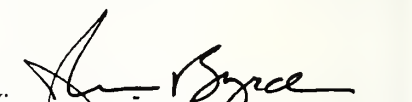
Mount Olive College hereby agrees to accept **The Barrow Family Endowed Fund For Christian Ministries** and to administer the assets assigned to it and the income therefrom for the purposes set forth above.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BARROW FAMILY:

  
N. Bruce Barrow

Nigle B. Barrow, Jr.

ACCEPTED:  
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE, INC.

By:   
J. William Byrd, Jr., President

  
W. Burkette Raper, Director  
Planned Giving

Date: February 7, 1998

## CHURCH FINANCE

### ATTENTION: PARCEL OF LAND FOR SALE

The Church Finance Association, Inc. is offering for sale a parcel of land in Sumter County, Georgia. This parcel was given to the Church Finance Association, Inc. in 1969. It is a vacant lot in a mobile home sub-division. The board of directors has no plans for the property and in an effort to eliminate any liability which may result from its ownership it is being offered for sale to the highest bidder. The property is presently carried on the books of Association at a value of \$200.00.

Written bids may be presented to the Church Finance Association, Inc., during the month of April, 1997, at the office located in Ayden, NC. Bids may be mailed to Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Very little is known of this property, but if you have any questions you can call Donald Fader at 919-523-5800.

By order of the Board  
William Thigpen, Secretary

## Funding the Vision

by Donald Fader

There comes a time in most churches when through growth or necessity, there is a need to expand their facilities. They may need to enlarge the sanctuary, add classroom space, or they may need a family-life center. Once the need is recognized, a vision soon develops.

There are several definitions of the word *vision*, but for the purposes of the article I am speaking of the manner in which one sees or conceives something, a mental image produced by the imagination. A potential problem here is that all of us may have a slightly different vision of what is needed, so it is incumbent upon the church to develop and hone the vision until a general consensus evolves.

Early on in the process it is important to obtain a ballpark cost for the vision, remembering the words of Jesus in the fourteenth chapter of Luke (Verse 28) "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he has sufficient to finish it?" Once you have determined an approximate cost, then you need to decide how you will "Fund the Vision."

There are many ways you can go about this and we will look briefly at several options.

**1) Establish a building fund and raise all the money needed prior to construction and then "Pay as you Go."** This will work if your project can be delayed until funds are raised and if you can raise the funds quickly enough. Let's face it, if you need Sunday school rooms today because of overcrowding, statistics tell us that after a while families will go to church where this is not a problem. Also, if you are already overcrowded, how can you continue to grow? Membership is seldom ever static, so if you are not growing, you are declining. Another concern is that building costs will continue to escalate, and as you attempt to raise money you find that you are aiming at a moving target. Sometimes the congregation wearies of fund raising with no tangible results and the process can lag.

**2) Self Fund.** This is for a church with a well-oiled administrative staff. In this situation, a church actually issues debt instruments to the congregation, in essence borrowing from the members. This option requires legal expertise, cash-flow models, and sophisticated bookkeeping. The use of this option should be reserved for short term low-cost projects.

**3) Make a down payment and then finance the balance.** This is usually the option of choice for most churches. Here you commit to a general contractor, or in some cases the project is sub-contracted by church members, for a set price and then financing is obtained from a bank or the Church Finance Association. At this point the project is now underway and the cost to build is in hand. During the construction process, draws are made to the church based on work completed and following completion, the loan amortized for us to 25 years. With the **Church Finance Association** low monthly payments are established and the church has the option of making larger payments after a special offering or fund raiser. These amounts are applied directly to the principal and they go a long way in reducing interest payments and the length of the loan term.

How does a church go about borrowing money? Since 1940 the Church Finance Association has been making it easy for churches to borrow money. To make an application with the Church Finance Association, all a church has to do is call the Convention Office in Ayden at 919-746-4963 and request a loan package. Our goal is to make it as simple a process as possible, because lending money to Free Will Baptist Churches is all we do.

In an effort to make this transaction as simple as we can, all we require is the church's financial information, executed application, and project information. We do not require co-signors and although the trustees sign the note, they are not in any way personally liable for the loan. The current rate is 7.50% which is 1.00% lower than the banks prime lending rate.

Where does this money come from? Individuals, churches, and ministries invest their resources with us to provide a pool of funds which we lend. In return they receive interest on these funds which accrue or are paid annually. While the return may be lower than that offered by a bank or savings and loan, there is the satisfaction that you are making funds available for churches and ministries to build and grow. Also, depending on the investment option, these funds are available back to the church on as little as 30 days notice. Every church with money in savings should consider placing these funds with the Church Finance Association. Churches helping churches is what we are all about.

We would be happy to sit down with your finance or building committee to help you develop a plan to "**Fund your Vision,**" give us a call today!



# A p r i l

Pr

Thi

| SUN                                                  | MON                     | TUE |             |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------|
| 29                                                   | 30                      | 31  | 1<br>West   |
| 5<br><br>Palm Sunday<br>Daylight Savings Time Begins | 6                       | 7   | 8<br>Cape F |
| 12<br><br>Easter                                     | 13<br><br>Easter Monday | 14  | 15          |
| 19                                                   | 20                      | 21  | 22          |
| 26<br><br>Good Shepherd Sunday                       | 27                      | 28  | 29          |

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

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member \_\_\_\_\_

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| THU                           |                                                                                                                              | FRI                                                                                                       |  | SAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| n's Auxiliary,<br>Hill Church | <b>2</b><br>Layman's League<br>Promotional Committee Meeting,<br>VFW Building, Snow Hill<br>7:30 PM                          | <b>3</b><br>Wayne County Society Dinner<br>for Mount Olive College,<br>Murphy Regional Center,<br>7:00 PM |  | <b>4</b><br>Central Conference<br>Ladies Auxiliary Study Course,<br>First FWB Church, Greenville,<br>9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON<br><br>Camp Vandemere's "Hoops For Christ",<br>Sandy Plains OFWB Church, Beulaville,<br>1:00 PM<br><br>Pee Dee Woman's Auxiliary, Oak Grove |  |
| n's Auxiliary,<br>atan Church | <b>9</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>10</b><br><br>Good Friday                                                                              |  | <b>11</b><br>Albemarle Woman's Auxiliary,<br>Hickory Chapel Church<br><br>Passover                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
|                               | <b>16</b><br>MOC Singers Spring Fling,<br>25th Instrumental Ensemble,<br>Murphy Regional Center,<br>12:30 PM                 | <b>17</b>                                                                                                 |  | <b>18</b><br>Piedmont Woman's Auxiliary                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
|                               | <b>23</b><br>MOC Award Day,<br>Rodgers Chapel, 11:00AM<br><br>MOC Athletic Award Banquet,<br>Murphy Regional Center, 6:30 PM | <b>24</b><br>MOC - Choir's Spring Concert,<br>Rodgers Chapel, 8:00 PM                                     |  | <b>25</b><br>Annual Prayer Retreat,<br>Holiday Inn, Kinston,<br>9:00 AM – 12:15 PM<br><br>FWB Bible Bowl and<br>Talent Competition, All Day                                                                                                                           |  |
|                               | <b>30</b>                                                                                                                    | <b>1</b>                                                                                                  |  | <b>2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



# Minister's Compensation — Are Changes Necessary?

## Part One by Donald Fader

Can you guess what I am talking about in the next sentence? This is something that all churches must deal with, and it is usually the single largest line item in a church's budget. It affects every part of the church's ministry, no one likes to talk about it in business meetings, but everyone has an opinion that they are willing to share outside the church. It is the pastor's salary!

Over the next few months, we will examine several aspects of this subject and we will attempt to create a deeper understanding of all that is involved when we review the subject of compensation. We will look at topics such as what is involved, what is fair, and what are some non-monetary ways to assist the pastor.

In an effort to understand where we are going, it is best to look at where we have been. During the course of our almost 275-year history, we have been primarily a rural denomination. Even today the majority of our churches are still located in what can best be described as non-urban areas in eastern North Carolina. This observation is not meant to be an apology or an excuse — this is our heritage. It is who we are and we have some of the finest churches and members anywhere.

With many of our churches being in "the country," it is no surprise that we have strong agricultural roots. Our churches have been privileged to be led in years past by men and women who had faith to plant seeds in the ground and then depend on God to nurture and water these seeds until they grew into a harvest.

It has been clear that our churches in years past were guided by men who used the same management techniques in the church that they used on the farm. That technique was to hire help as inexpensively as possible in an effort to hold down cost and increase profit. To them, this was a matter of good stewardship.

However, over the years we have

learned to understand that good stewardship is not always getting the cheapest, but rather it is investing our resources where they will provide the best return. In other words, if we are looking for someone to perform menial tasks then paying minimum wage makes perfectly good sense. But if we are looking for leadership, vision and experience, minimum wage will not fill the bill.

While we may save money today in not fixing the roof, or not treating the termites, sooner or later we will realize that we did not save money at all, rather we wound up spending more because the problems just got worse. Churches today are realizing the false economy of hiring the pastor that will come for the lowest salary. A low salary creates low expectations on the church's part and in some cases, low performance on behalf of the minister.

So now we must answer the question, "What is Fair?" This is not as simple as it may seem because there are several factors that must be considered. A church should factor in size,

experience, education, and expectations. Over the years, the Minister's Program has surveyed ministers in our denomination as well as other denominations, and we have reviewed salary levels in the private sector. After a comprehensive analysis of this information, we devised a Basic Compensation Package for use by our churches and ministers.

We have just recently completed the 1998 revision and we will be sending them out to all of our churches and pastors. We encourage the use of this brochure, but it should be understood that it is just a tool and there is no substitute for open dialogue between the church and the minister. We can learn from the mistakes we made in years past and from here we can build a future of churches and ministers working together as we carry the Convention into the Twenty-First Century.

Next month:

What can our Church do to help the minister?

## Surviving Minister's Fund New Enrollment

The Surviving Minister's Fund was established to help ministers who have suffered the loss of their wife. This letter is to announce a new double enrollment in this fund. Lillie M. Grimsley and Leona E. Benton passed away recently and their husbands, the Reverends John W. Grimsley and Edgar Benton received the proceeds of this fund which totaled \$1,160.00 each.

The Surviving Minister's fund works the same as the Minister's Widows Fund except benefits are paid to the surviving minister upon the death of his spouse. Every married minister and his wife are eligible to participate in the amount of \$10.00 for each participant.

The mailing list is provided by the Convention Office in Ayden. If there are any corrections needed, please contact the office in Ayden and speak with Jennifer Williamson.

Please take the time to enroll now. The last enrollment was a single enrollment for Mazie Parrish, wife of the Rev. Walton Parrish in August, 1997.

Thank you for your participation.

Donald Fader



## The Tax Man Cometh

It has been said that there are two things that are certain, death and taxes. While there is not much we can do regarding death each year, the Minister's Program sponsors a tax seminar for ministers, their spouses, and other interested individuals. The meeting was held at the Hampton Inn in Kinston on February, 19, 1998.

The minister's tax status is unique under the US tax code and quite often it is difficult to get reliable assistance, even from tax professionals, in preparing a tax return for a minister.

CPAs Curtis Smith and Dana Letchworth of the Accounting Firm of Page and Smith, PA were the speakers and they

brought everyone up to date on recent changes in the tax code that applied to ministers. In addition, they made themselves available following the meeting to answer questions that involved specific questions for individuals in attendance. We appreciate those who attended and we thank the churches who support the Minister's Program for making this seminar possible.



Director Don Fader speaks to those attending the Seminar.



Participants take a break during the seminar

## Free Will Baptist Press Receives Award



Shown with the Rev. C. H. Overman (center), editor of the Free Will Baptist Press, is Mr. Jack Farrior, chairman of the Existing Industrial Commission (left), and Mr. Ed Yancey, chairman of the Pitt County Industrial Commission.

On February 24, 1998, the Free Will Baptist Press was presented a plaque by the Pitt County Industrial Commission in recognition for 125 years of service in the Pitt County area. The meeting was held at Rock Springs Center, near Greenville. Representatives were present from a large number of Pitt County businesses. Mr. Overman was accompanied by his wife, Ruby.

# CRAGMONT NEWS

## Cragmont News

The second phase renovation work has begun on the Main Building! By the time summer camp begins, all Main Building rooms will have private baths, the lobby stairs will be wider, and there will be a special surprise for all summer campers concerning the chapel. (Hint: Perhaps a bit cooler than past summers.)

Please remember the Cragmont staff and guests in your prayers during this somewhat stressful time of noise and construction crews. Also, please remember the ministry of Cragmont in your plans for special offerings, church budget meetings, and individual pledge commitments. We need your help!

Let's get this Main Building project behind us so we can move on to other physical improvements and *extended program offerings*.



## Summer Camp Schedule

### MORNING STAR

April 17-19, 1998

Teresa Ball • 919-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd, Grifton, NC 28530

### JUNE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE

June 8-13, 1998

Teresa Ball • 919-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530

### MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

June 15-18, 1998

Doug Skinner • 919-596-2456

817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703

### CHRISTIAN CADET CONFERENCE

June 22-27, 1998

Gary Bailey • 919-735-3916

112 Crosswinds Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27530

### YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (YFA)

June 29-July 4, 1998

Janie Sowers • 919-235-2408

Frankie Baggett, Co-Director • 919-746-7850

PO Box 824, Middlesex, NC 27557

### YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (AFC)

July 6-11, 1998

Frankie Baggett • 919-746-7850

5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd, Ayden, NC 28513

### GENERAL YOUTH II CONFERENCE

July 13-18, 1998

Chris Singleton • 910-298-3520

PO Box 162, Beulaville, NC 28518

### GENERAL YOUTH I CONFERENCE

July 20-25, 1998

Bryant Hines • 919-638-3436

PO Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

July 27-August 1, 1998

James Gurganus • 919-223-5251

1317 Nine Foot Rd, Newport, NC 28570

### AUGUST WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE

August 3-8, 1998

Teresa Ball • 919-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530

## Give Your Youth an Opportunity to Experience Revival

This summer there are six youth conferences scheduled to accommodate ages that range from 9 - 18. These conferences all share common goals. (1) To proclaim the gospel to any young person who may not know Christ. (2) To teach the Word of God so that those who are already Christians may grow in their spiritual lives. (3) To show the youth of our day that recreation and times of fun do exist in the life of the Christian.

Each and every day the young people who attend a conference are involved in Bible classes each morning, recreation in the afternoon, worship services at night. These are very basic but much needed attributes of the Christian's life. At home in their normal routine sometimes people forget to include these things in their lives. It is our fervent prayer that those attending a youth conference at Cragmont will be grounded in their faith, making them stronger Christians when they leave their mountaintop experiences.

We who are involved in the church and the Christian life talk about revival and how much revival is needed in today's world. Revival is exactly what happens to the young people who come to Cragmont. Cragmont is a place where God is allowed the chance to break in upon an individual's world that is accustomed to many other things, the cares of school, home, etc. At Cragmont these cares and worries can be put aside for a short time giving more time to turn to God.

Cragmont is but an extension of all the churches of our denomination. Your young people can benefit from a week at Cragmont. Listed are all the weeks of summer conferences along with the person you should contact for registration procedures. Give your youth a week of revival. Sign up now while there is plenty of room.

## Cragmont Club

The Cragmont Club was established to help us have a healthier cash flow. Each year the club is responsible for bringing in approximately \$30,000.00, much of which will arrive on a monthly time schedule. While the club will give you and your immediate family members certain benefits, we hope that these benefits are not the reason for joining. It is our hope that the greatest benefit you receive is knowing that you are helping to keep alive an important ministry of the denomination.

### The Plan

For \$10.00 per month you and your immediate family may spend a weekend or the equivalent of a weekend at Cragmont at no cost.

### Rules

- Benefits may not be used during regularly scheduled conferences.
- Benefits may not be carried over into another year.
- Those persons living under your roof is our definition of immediate family.
- Meals will not be prepared unless there are 15 or more people staying at Cragmont.
- You may use benefits if you are traveling in the area while on vacation.
- You may use benefits while at Cragmont during a church retreat.

To join the Cragmont Club make out your first check for \$10.00 to Cragmont. Each month a reminder is sent to joggle your memory to send in your next \$10.00.

## Woman's Auxiliary Missionary Department, Mexico



The Woman's Auxiliary of the state of Coahuila met on November 29, 1997. The various presidents of the auxiliary's departments, under the leadership of Benita Juarez, met with the proposal to talk about the work that this department importantly fulfills in the local church:

- The importance of the work of the woman in the church.
- The importance of the prayer of the woman for the work of God.
- To be a strong help in the ministry of the pastor.
- Working in the visitation program to evangelize other women and integrating them into the local church.
- Instructions for the Auxiliary President on how to strengthen the fellowship in the department and to reach the goals set for the advancement of the work.
- To put into place working goals to help young women and those women who have recently been converted to teach them the Word of God and how to work in their local church and win other women to the Lord.
- To expect the Woman's Auxiliary to grow even more in 1998.
- To reach the goals set by the Auxiliary working together for the glory of God.
- To meet every two months and evaluate the work in the departments.
- To come and pray together for the work of God, the pastors and the families of the church.

Finally, the Auxiliary's Presidents' words: "We have done a good work in the Auxiliary. We have immersed ourselves in fellowship and we have collaborated in the ministry with the pastors. Let us all together continue to pray as women for our churches so that the Lord can continue to use our lives in His great work."

## Giving Away

by Janan

One Sunday morning we read a teaching of Jesus: "If you give, to you shall be given even more." Ikbal, one of the small boys was very much impressed by the story. He went home, took from his mama's wallet 2000.00 leva and bought with this money a whole carton full of Suha-pasta, which are small cakes with chocolate around it. It is a real delicacy. Then he began to give it all away and he was saying: "Take it, take it please, because if I give to you, God will give me even more." So, he went through the whole Gypsy camp, giving away all he had. To be sure, he asked the children if they received one already.



Many of the children were wondering and they thought: "He is getting crazy." But our children told me: "He is so good today." Normally Ikbal tried to have every thing for himself alone. Ikbal went home very happy, because he gave away a full carton box of Suha-pasta. I never heard what his mother thought about it.

About Ikbal: Two months ago his father died of cancer. He was only 30 years old. Ikbal still does not understand what he has lost, but one thing is sure, he likes to hear the stories of the Bible and he loves to practice them.

## Our Distinguished Guests From North Carolina

by Dr. E. M. Lall

It was with great excitement that we received our distinguished guests on January 14, 1998, around 6:00 AM, at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi who flew by Gulf Air Flight-130. They were warmly received with bouquets of roses. They were driven by bus to Delhi YMCA to get easy, have a shower, and rest a while.

Immediately after lunch they drove to Agra arriving at Hotel Atithi by late evening. In the morning of January the 15, they went to visit the Taj Mahal, but it was closed for public owing to the visit of some VIP. However, they rushed to see the Agra Fort which was also seen in a haste as the same VIP was scheduled there. A chance was taken to visit the Taj Mahal again and it became possible.

The group comprising of eleven members from the Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, and the Rev. and Mrs. Harold Jones, our Director-Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions, were warmly received at the Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church at Agra, built by their generous donations. The entire congregation and a group of Hindus of the county participated in the dedication service of the church. In the meantime, the Hindus of the vicinity also garlanded the foreign guests from North Carolina and poured out their love and affection for them by entertaining them on a cup of tea at the house of the leader of the village.



It may be stated that our church is located near Delhi-Agra National Highway at Sikandra where the great Muslim Emperor named Akber was buried under a big tomb. Akber was the father of Emperor Shahajahan who built the Taj. There is no church building in that big part of Agra city. Our Church congregation lives around this place.

In the morning of January 16, they drove to Bareilly. On the way they were suppose to visit our rural Junior High School at Shekhupura with an enrollment of over 400 students from I to VIII standard. English is one of the subjects there. Two rooms the size of 22 x 25 feet are desperately needed to accommodate all the students in winter and rainy seasons. However, as we passed through Tundla city for Etah town, we had to stop our bus as it was not possible to continue the journey on the National Highway due to some serious accident.

We, therefore, went back sixteen miles and turned to lanes through the villages which did not have proper roads, being in the extreme interior areas much farther away from the towns and the National Highway. This enabled the guests to see the real India which otherwise they would have missed. Thus, we came out to another District and after driving some miles joined the same National Highway much ahead of the place of the accident. This made us abnormally delayed and behind our schedule so that we could not visit the school. However, we arrived at Bareilly safely.

Early the next day, January 17, we traveled to Rudrapur for inauguration of the church there. The people of this congregation were extremely happy to see the guests and were rather excited to come closer to them. They heartily received them with garlands of fine smelling flowers. After inauguration of the church building, Worship Service was also held followed by a fellowship lunch. We left again for another village church, which was the first church built in India, where a grand reception was given to the esteemed guests and a

worship service was held. This gave the guest a vivid idea of how their counterparts worship here in the remote villages. By the time we drove to Bareilly it was already dark.

The next day, January 18, was Sunday. They all attended the Worship Service at the Free Will Baptist Church at Bareilly. They admired the maintenance of the church which was in a most dilapidated condition when we took over it and restored it with the large contribution of the people of North Carolina. The church members entertained the guests with their talents on musical instruments which was very fascinating to the guests.

The highlight of the service was that the Rev. Harold Jones preached a though-provoking message of exhortation, following the solemn service of ordination of Anil Lall.

The Rev. A. G. Joseph, Pastor of our English Service at Bareilly, produced Anil Lall for ordination having been recommended by the Ordaining Council. He explained that Anil Lall has already constituted two small congregations in Pune, the city of his study, on weekends which would be developed during internship period from April onward. These are the first Free Will Baptist congregations in South India.

The Revs. Harold Jones, Ray Conner, A. G. Joseph, and Dr. E. M. Lall conducted the Solemn Service of

Ordination by laying on of their hands on Anil Lall during the Worship Service. The Rev. Harold Jones remarked that he saw a great change in Anil, his wife and the children, since they have come to the Lord completely.

On January 19, the group left for Delhi after visiting the Matkhera Junior High School. They were moved the way education is imparted through our institution among the majority of nonchristians. As we were on our way to Delhi, not much time could be spent in the school. The very last night of our visit the terrorists had attacked the village, killing people just behind our school building. We did not see any danger and continued our travel to Delhi with the instruction to the driver of the bus not to stop at any isolated place. We reached Delhi late evening, yet some shopping was possible and we went back to the YMCA to eat and rest for a little while before reaching the Airport to take flight at 4:20 AM.

All departed hale and hearty. Since there was some tussle with the Police at the Airport, regarding parking of the bus just for want of a bribe, I got busy helping the driver of the bus and could not spend time with the distinguished guests leaving us with a heavy heart.

In a nutshell the entire program was very hectic, tiring, and full of fatigue. I am really glad that in that prime of cold weather all were departed in good health!



*The group with Dr. and Mrs. E. M. Lall on January 18, 1998, at Bareilly Church.*



## *The Power of Prayer Bowed and Broken in His Presence*

by Harold Jones

Prayer is the noblest and yet the meekest of all Christian responsibilities. Prayer is not a gimmick! It is not a cliché! It is not something one does to draw attention to one's self to gain popularity among people. It is not to be used to show one's super spirituality.

Jesus describes two types of people who prayed in the following parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 18:10-14).

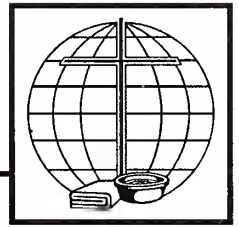
Notice that one's intention was to draw attention to himself and the other sought only to draw near to God. Jesus said: "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:5-6).

God hears and honors prayer in the right spirit. God help us to be pure in prayer. When we do have opportunities to pray openly before others, we must keep the lesson of these Scriptures in mind and never pray to impress others, but to bring our hearts and minds to the very throne of God that we may see Him, worship Him, and glorify Him.

God is calling all of us to this kind of prayer.

## **People & Events**

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT  
THE DENOMINATION



### *Minister Honored*

The Albemarle Union Meeting, in its 1997 August meeting at Belhaven Original Free Will Baptist Church, presented a plaque to the Rev. W. L. Brickhouse of Columbia, NC, for his thirty-one years of service in the Free Will Baptist denomination.



Pictured with the Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Brickhouse are members of the Albemarle Conference Ordaining Council (l-r): the Revs. Harold Swinson, Paul Grubbs, Everett Harper, William Mobley. (Not shown, the Rev. Robert May.)

Because of declining health, the Rev. Brickhouse is a patient of the Skilled Nursing Facility, Chowan Hospital, Edenton, NC. Prayers are requested in his behalf.

### *Mt. Pleasant Receives Attendance Award*

Congratulations to Mt. Pleasant Free Will Baptist Church in Mill Creek from the Carteret County Free Will Baptist Youth Fellowship. They won the Plaque for having the most people attend the Youth Rally for 1997. This is the second year in a row for Mt. Pleasant. Keep up the good work and may God bless you. Accepting the award for Mt. Pleasant are Randy Whaley and Tracy Williams.



Carteret County Free Will Baptist Youth Coordinators,  
David and Debbie Garner



## People & Events

### *Christian Chapel has Valentine Supper*

Christian Chapel celebrated Valentine's by having a covered-dish supper for the whole church. The Fellowship Building was decorated beautifully. The get together started out with a welcome by Audrey Powell, and a devotion was given. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal, then everyone was entertained by the church family. There were about eighty people who attended. Door prizes were given out.



### *Richard E. McKeel Ordained*

The Ordaining Council of the Western Conference conducted an Ordination service at Pleasant Plain Original Free Will Baptist Church, Selma, NC, Sunday, December 28, 1997, at 3:00 PM, to ordain Richard E. McKeel.

Mr. McKeel obtained his required credit hours through Carolina Bible Institute. He is married to Nova Tyner McKeel. They have a son and daughter-in-law (Jeff and Karen) and a grandson (Tyler). They also have a fifteen-year-old son (Matthew). The Rev. McKeel is the son-in-law of the Rev. and Mrs. Luby C. Tyner, a retired Free Will Baptist minister.

A reception was given in the fellowship hall by the family and church members.

The Rev. McKeel is the pastor of Pleasant Plain.



*Pictured with the Rev. McKeel (center) are members of the Ordaining Council (l-r): the Revs. Wayne Rogerson, Rudy Owens, James Joyner, Frank Grubbs, Lloyd Hargis, Ray Wells.*

### *News from Powhatan*

*Submitted by Rita Otto Jones*

Powhatan had another baptism service on February 1, 1998. Baptized were youth group members Lyndsay Carroll and Shelby McLeod.

Powhatan brought back the Youth Runner-Up banner from St. Mary's Grove on February 7. The adults as well as the youth enjoyed the Youth Rally program in which G. L. Woodard (Wooten's Chapel) used a set of weights to visually



demonstrate how God gives us our strength. A special congratulation to Wooten's Chapel's Mary Whitney Dupree who was crowned Miss Clayton High School at a pageant held on February 14.

Several birthdays have been celebrated — Barbara Southerland, 92nd; Lillian Dupree, 87th; and Daisy Stevens, 90th. Several loved ones have gone on to their final rest — Lucille Spence, Horace Barbour, and Oscar Benson.

Valentine bags were prepared by the youth for the Senior Citizens using donations of goodies by members. They were presented on Sunday morning, February 15. A special thanks to Nelson and Carol Blinson for supplying fruit for all the bags, and to all church members who brought items in.

*Pictured: Members of Powhatan's Youth Group, photo by Kerry Chestnut.*



## Experiences Wonderful Year

by the Rev. Dewey Boling

This past year (1997) was another wonderful year at Barnes Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, NC.

The first Sunday in January, 1997, seven candidates were baptized during the evening service. As always, this was a beautiful service and seemed to set the tone for the whole year.

In February, our fifth Valentine's Banquet was held with a total of 46 present. Everyone had a good time.

All services were well attended throughout the year. When members were on vacation, visitors took their place. Each service seemed to be visited by the Holy Spirit in a wonderful way. Everyone seemed so happy to be in the Lord's house. Attendance for the Easter sunrise service was good, with 92 early worshippers. This was the first time during the five years as pastor that Mrs. Boling and I have seen the sun rise on Easter morning. Cloudiness has blocked out the sun during the previous four years. The service was held in the cemetery, and it was a wonderful experience. It would have been a wonderful time for the Lord to open those graves and split the eastern sky with His return. It was the most beautiful sunrise I have ever seen. After the service, we had a nice breakfast in the fellowship hall. Afterwards, we began Sunday school and then the Morning Worship service. The service ended with a love feast Communion, with each one having a silent prayer and

then serving themselves at the Lord's Table. We were very pleased with our service that day.

During the summer we had a baptism service outside in a pool. Four were baptized on a beautiful day, with 85 present to be a part of this wonderful service, including a lady who was recovering from cancer who came to see her husband baptized, having prayed for him for many years. This was truly a miracle. Only a few weeks earlier she had been sick and the doctors thought she might have to be put on life support. On a Sunday evening we had prayed for her and during the evening service everyone was asked to come to the altar and pray for her. In her absence, another person was anointed in her stead. When I went to see her on Monday, she was better. I challenged the church to keep praying for a miracle. In twelve days she came home from the hospital and has continued to improve. Now she is able to attend church and does most anything she wants to do. The doctors don't understand, but we at Barnes Hill understand that God still answers prayers, just as He did when the church at Mark's house prayed for Peter who was in prison. The Lord sent an angel to deliver Peter from jail, then Peter went to the house where the believers had been praying for him. God is still on the throne.

On Mother's Day the men were in

charge of the services, both morning and evening. The ladies were in charge of the services on Father's Day. We enjoyed them very much and everyone did a good job.

Our youth have something every month under the direction of our youth leaders, Mrs. Pam Casey and Mrs. Lisa Lindsey. They took a trip to the zoo, went on a fishing trip, had a softball game, a putt-putt trip and had a sleepover in our fellowship hall. All were well attended and enjoyed by all. Our young people are very active in our church, putting on plays and cook-outs and we are blessed with their talents at Barnes Hill. We are blessed to have young women in our church working with our youth who are willing to work.

When December arrived it was a very busy month. On the first Sunday night in December, we had a very good Christmas service. On the third Sunday night we had a Christmas play put on by our youth. After that service we had refreshments in our fellowship hall with Santa Claus and presents.

We started out the year, 1998, with one person being saved. This is the third year we have had people saved on the first Sunday in the year.

We ask you all as you read this to continue to pray for us at Barnes Hill and we will be in prayer for all of you.

## Recommended Reading

Mrs. Thelma T. Edwards, wife of the Rev. Elbert E. Edwards, Chocowinity, NC, has provided us with a wonderful story in her book entitled, *Livin' and Lovin' in Eastern North Carolina*. Mrs. Edwards has dedicated the book to her daughter, Lexa Upton, who encouraged her in its writing.

Chapter One is entitled, "The Virginia Creeper House," and begins: "My earliest memories are centered around a village known as Leens, North Carolina (whose post office was Parmele), with wonderfully warm, caring and sharing people." Thus the tone is set for the entire book, for Mrs. Edwards shares some warm, heart-warming stories of the events in her life and the life of her husband, Elbert.

The book may be purchased from the Free Will Baptist Press, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513, 919-746-6128. The price per copy is \$15.00.



### Valentine Fellowship

On Friday evening, February 13, 1998, the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, celebrated their love for one another with food, fellowship, and fun! After a delicious spaghetti candlelight dinner, prepared by ladies of the church, the entertainment began.

The first game for the evening was "The Dating Game." Three ladies Kaye Jones, Sarah Dixon, and Eva Stuckey, battled for the bachelor as they responded to questions asked. When "Bob" the bachelor (Michael Garris of Ayden), asked questions such as "Please sing me a line from your favorite hymn," one of the bachelorettes refused to answer. Of course it was all in fun, but "Bob" did choose who would be his pick if there really was a date, he chose Ms. Sarah Dixon.



The next game was called "The Anniversary Game." Some may call this the "Not-So-Newlywed-Game." The four couples competing were (pictured below from l-r): Mr. and Mrs. Robert "Bud" Smith, the Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Overman, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Corbett, and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Tripp. The couples were asked questions about each other by their host, Mr. Larry Mann, to see how well they really knew one another. Most of the scores were close, but the winner of this hilarious game was Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Tripp.



The evening was topped by crowning a king and queen of the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church. Members and guests filled out a survey form stating their choice for couple of the year. Mr. and Mrs. George Watson were selected for this honorable title as king and queen. They will hold onto their crowns until next year while the rest of the couples strive to be in their place!

### Woman's Auxiliary of Wilson Church Conducts Service



Linda Davis (left) Woman's Auxiliary President presenting Alta Howard (right) the Woman's Auxiliary Life Membership Award.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the First Original Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC, presided over the Morning Worship Service on Sunday, February 15, 1998. During the annual event, special music was presented by our Woman's Auxiliary Choir under the direction of Ramey Jo Dail. Our song leader, Deborah King, led the church in several inspirational hymns. Members of the Woman's Auxiliary were in charge of all activities for the service. The Woman's Auxiliary President, Linda Davis presented a "Life Membership Award" to Alta Howard for her outstanding achievements and devotion to our church. Mrs. Davis stated, "Alta, lives her life in faith, she gives sacrificially of herself, she loves her fellowman, and she receives her strength from Christ." Alta has been an active member of the Woman's Auxiliary since 1970. She has served as Secretary, Circle Chairperson, Children's Home Chairman, Program Prayer Chairman, Song Leader, and is presently serving as Corresponding Secretary. She is active in Sunday school, the Chancel Choir, and helps with the Wednesday night meals.

The following "Life Time Members" were then recognized: Burmie Bass, Eunice Boykin, Blanche Cook, Doretha Daniel, Mildred Davis, Eleanor Dickerson, Fannie Lee Dickerson, Gwen Ferrell, Bessie Gay, Jenny Hayes, Rebecca Latham, Sudie Mixon, Kathleen Pipkin, Nona Pope, Lucille Poythress, Mozelle Price, Hilda Sasser, Florence Skinner, Eleanor Sullivan, Gerry Whitley, and Agnes Vester.

The morning message was delivered by the Pastor, Wayne King. Gwen Ferrell dismissed the service with prayer. Our Woman's Auxiliary is looking forward to a great year of service and devotion to our church and Saviour, Jesus Christ!



## ***Ruby Hooks Day at Piney Grove Church***

Seventy-five years of service to God and Piney Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Kenly, NC, was recognized on Sunday, February 15, 1998, as Ruby Hooks Day was observed at the Johnston County church. Mrs. Hooks, as life-long resident of the Kenly area, was unaware of the observance until the pastor, the Rev. Charles L. Renfrow, read the proclamation at the beginning of the morning worship hour.

The service began with the congregation singing Mrs. Hooks' favorite hymn, "Praise Him! Praise Him!" Auxiliary President, Betty Jean Pope, presented the honoree with a corsage and thanked her for the many years of active participation in the Woman's Auxiliary at Piney Grove. Sunday School Superintendent Nathan Bass recognized over forty years of service as Junior Sunday school class teacher, and proclaimed the Junior class to be named the Ruby Hooks Junior Class. He presented a brass plaque to the church, which will be placed on the Junior Class door.

Tributes were given by several church members, chosen to represent the various areas of church work. Ralph Pope, Chairman of the Trustees and a Deacon, expressed appreciation for the years of active service to the church. Wanda Daniels thanked Mrs. Hooks for her help with her daughter when she moved to the community as a single parent. George Daniels told the congregation of the positive influence Mrs. Hooks had on his life as a young boy.

A former Junior Class member, Sandra Walston, gave a very moving tribute when she said, "For many years Mrs. Ruby greeted her students and told them how much she loved them before they left...In the back of our minds we would hear her say, 'It will be okay if we pray about it and let God do His will.' ...Mrs. Ruby may never hold a political office or attend major fund raisers in fine gowns and jewels, but she has accomplished a far greater feat. She has lead the life of a Christian lady and has influenced the lives of those who know and love her."

Several of the thirty-two family members in the service with Mrs. Hooks

also gave their tributes, including her two daughters, Jean Howard and Christine Bryan, son-in-law Doug Howard, and grandson Stephen Howard.

Pastor Renfrow presented Mrs. Hooks with a plaque on behalf of the membership of Piney Grove and told her of the great love and respect that her brothers and sisters in the church have for her.

The celebration concluded with a Valentine dinner in the church Fellowship Hall, which was attended by over 100 people.



*Mrs. Ruby Hooks on her special day.*

## **People & Events**

### ***Study Course for the Central Conference Ladies Auxiliary***

A study course is planned on April 4, 1998 at the First Free Will Baptist Church, located on 2426 South Charles Blvd, Greenville, NC. The speaker will be Mrs. Ruth Cotton West. Her topic will be on Stewardship.

Mrs. West is living in East Petersburg, PA. She holds a master's degree in music education, has long been noted for her singing and proficiency on both organ and piano. But in the past few years, Ruth has come increasingly in demand as a speaker at CFO and at Women's Retreats and banquets. Her style combines practical insights and ideas with inspiration, encouragement, and wit.

She and her husband, Wayne, have hosted tours for Christians over several parts of the world including Israel, Germany, Greece, and the Greek Islands, Switzerland, Rome, Alaska, and Hawaii. Their ministry is called "Praise Unlimited." Their goal is to glorify God and to proclaim the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to all who wish to hear it.

Ruth Cotton West is the daughter of Mrs. Ruth Taylor, formerly of Greenville, NC.

The study course will begin at 9:00 AM and end at lunch.

#### **The schedule is as follows:**

- |               |                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 9:00 - 10:00  | Study Course by Ruth Cotton West |
| 10:00 - 10:30 | Break, Refreshments              |
| 10:30 - 12:00 | Study Course by Mrs. West        |

An invitation to attend is given to all, please call Mrs. Faye Adams, Study Course Chairman at 919-756-3568; or the First Free Will Baptist Church 756-6600 if you are planning to attend.

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### ***Ted Stone To Speak***

Ted Stone, Frontline Leader in the war on drug abuse, the man with a story all America should hear, will speak at Wootens Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, near Raleigh, NC, Sunday, April 5, 1998, at 11:00 AM. The church is located at 9825 Sauls Road, twelve miles south of Raleigh.

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## People & Events

### Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Convention Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church

April 4, 1998

Theme: "God's Love"

John 15:12

- 9:00 Registration  
9:30 Song ..... "Love Lifted Me"  
Devotion ..... Lynette Summerlin  
Welcome ..... Host Church  
Response ..... Pleasant Grove Church  
Greetings ..... Linda Jackson, President  
Song ..... "Love Divine"  
Prayer  
Offering  
Song ..... "My Jesus I Love Thee"  
Enterprises Report  
Minutes ..... Betty Strickland, Secretary  
Treasurer's Report ..... Linda Barbour  
Memorial Service  
Special Music ..... Smith Family  
Message ..... The Rev. Jim Bogel  
Song ..... "Jesus Loves Me"  
Miscellaneous Business  
Benediction and Grace  
12:30 Lunch

### Saint Mary's Free Will Baptist Church Invites You to Their Passion Play... "He's Still the Lamb" A Personal Encounter of The Final Days of Jesus Including His Passionate Death On the Cross And His Glorious Resurrection

Friday, April 10 at 8:00 PM  
Saturday, April 11 at 8:00 PM  
Easter Sunday Morning,  
April 12 at 11:00 AM

Saint Mary's Original Free Will Baptist Church  
Corner of Broad & Fleet Streets  
Beside Day's Inn in Downtown New Bern  
For More Information Contact  
Pastor Craig Simmons at 919-637-3485

Can You Afford to go to Camp?  
There Is A Way!!!

## Cragmont Camp

Can't afford the cost of the entire trip or have only partial funds, the Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund can help. Ages 8 to 18 can apply. Fill out the following application and return by May 30, 1998 to Ellen Forlines, 2907 Ellsworth Drive, Greenville, NC 27834. Recipients will be notified by the committee as soon as possible.

### Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund Cragmont Trip Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church Attending \_\_\_\_\_

(For the child) why would you like to go to Cragmont?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(For the person referring the child) give a brief statement of need.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Circle the week you would like to attend.

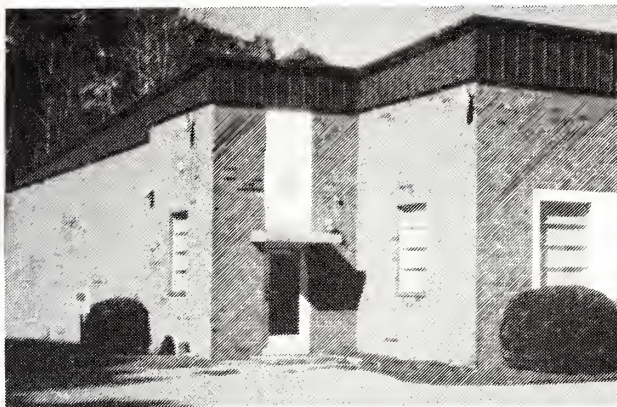
YFA's Week June 29-July 4 — Ages 13-18

AFC's Week July 6 - July 11 — Ages 8-13

Referring Party \_\_\_\_\_  
Trips to Cragmont are sponsored annually by the Christian Fellowship Class of the Winterville Free Will Baptist Church through the Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund.

# Headquarters Staff

## People & Events



Headquarters in Ayden, NC.

Mrs. Andrea Cox is secretary in the Home Missions and Evangelism office and also serves as secretary for Retirement Homes. She is the wife of Neal Cox, a licensed minister. (Pictured on right)



Mrs. Jennifer Williamson serves as the Headquarters receptionist and performs secretarial duties. She is the wife of the Rev. Brad Williamson.



Mrs. Sandra Jones is assistant to the director of Foreign Missions, the Rev. Harold Jones. She performs many of the department's secretarial duties. (Pictured to left)

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptist is very fortunate to have these ladies serving the denomination in the Headquarters.

## REGISTRATION FORM

### CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCES

**June 8-13, 1998**

**SPEAKER: JOYCE EDMUNDSON**

**August 3-8, 1998**

**SPEAKER: BECKY JO SUMNER**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Which Conference Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:

**Teresa M. Ball**

**6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530**

A balance of \$120.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip is being planned to the Knoxville Riverboat Dinner Cruise \$65.00, and there will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville (\$5.00 each). Please make your plans now to join us for one or both of these conferences.

**Remember:** The June Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies. A limited number of private accommodations for couples are available on a first registered, first served basis.





# THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens*



"You have never been this way before..." (Joshua 3:4, NIV).

## The Future Is Now

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

While a student in seminary in the late 1940's, I took out my first insurance policy, a policy that would endow at age seventy. I calculated the years and determined that the policy would mature in 1998 — a time that seemed too remote in the future to have any relevance to the world in which I was then living.

A few days ago, however, the company sent me the forms to claim the matured value of the policy. As I filled out the forms, I realized that for me the future had arrived. It was time for me to transfer my plans for the future into the present. I view these plans not as a sad resignation to my mortality but rather the formulation of a design to joyfully consummate the goals and purpose of my life.

None of us wants life to pass us by and leave us still looking forward to a future we will never experience. Let us, therefore, consider how, by God's grace, we can bring our future into the present.

### I. By Purpose

To transform our future into a meaningful present, we must have a purpose in life that transcends our mortality. It is not enough to simply want to live a long life if we do not know what to do with it. We need goals that as we reach them give us a sense of mission and fulfillment. If these goals are to fulfill God's purpose for placing us on this earth, they must extend beyond our own self interest to the good of humankind.

### II. By Preserving Our Health

In this world, God gives us only one body, and we live only as long as that body can sustain life. The accumulation of wealth at the expense of good health is false economy. In like manner, to put the attainment of power or professional acclaim above our physical well being is short-range thinking. The temporary pleasures of a lifestyle based on the abusive use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, unhealthy eating habits and sensuality are simply not worth the permanent damage done to our bodies.

Good health is a precious gift and self-discipline is a small price to pay to maintain it as long as possible. The natural process of aging and the onset of diseases beyond our control will impose physical limitations upon us soon enough.

With the advancement of the years, I have learned to listen to my body; and the more I listen, the more it tells me. At various stages in life, we all begin to develop physical limitations, but to keep our soul at peace with our body is one of the best ways to safeguard our health.

### III. Through Financial Planning

There are two financial practices I highly recommend in preparation for retirement.

First, in addition to Social Security and whatever pension plan is available through your employment, as soon as possible begin setting aside a monthly fixed amount for a personal investment account. Habits of thrift are formed early, or probably not at all.

Second, practice financial stewardship. John Templeton, one of the great money managers of our time, was once asked by a group of professional financial advisors what he considered the best investment they might recommend to their clients. "Tithing" was his immediate reply. There are many reasons to give to Christian causes, but chief among them is gratitude to God who provides all that we have.

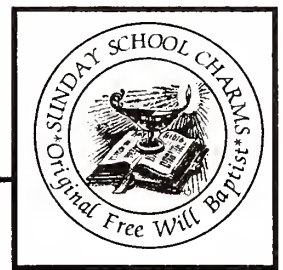
### IV. Through Creative Retirement

For many people, retirement is a traumatic experience. A creative approach, however, can be the means for transforming our dreams for the future into the present. Retirement need not mean cessation from work but an opportunity to do those things that help to fulfill the mission of our life.

I regard God's call to me to be for life, not until I reach a certain age. I am still working full-time, but now, for the most part, I can control my schedule rather than have it largely determined by factors over which I have little control. Above all, I am free to do those things that contribute most to the meaning and fulfillment of my senior years.

Those of us who have reached the senior stages in life can find strength in the words of God to Joshua: "You have never been this way before..." but "I will be with you," (Joshua 3:4, 7 NIV).

1998 (Vol. 3, No. 6) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



## A Successful Institute

by the Rev. Paul Grubbs

This year's Sunday School Convention Institute, held on March 7, at Mount Olive College proved to be most successful in both attendance and interest, with over 300 participants. Most everyone seemed pleased with the different method of registration, which was held in Murphy Regional Center. Also, most everyone expressed their pleasure with the workshops.

The following is part of the outline followed in one of the workshops.

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

#### I. Qualifications

##### G. Teachers

1. Be a *Christian* — one who has accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour
2. Be a member of the *local church* and faithful in attendance.
3. Be interested in all phases of the church *ministry* — locally and denominationally.
4. Be a student of the *Bible*.
5. Be a *student* of and believer in the Original Free Will Baptist Doctrine.
6. Have a good *education*. Anyone who is studying the Bible is getting a good education. But I would add to this, have at least a high school diploma. I know there are some good Sunday school teachers who did not graduate from high school, but they are usually older and well studied in the Scriptures.
7. Understand human development and *nature*. This is very important for the teacher to know what learned skills her/his pupils have developed.
8. Be a *example*/model to others. Let your students know you live by the Word of God. Be at every church meeting possible.
9. Be a friend.
10. Have a genuine interest in *teaching*. If the teacher is not interested in teaching how will the students be motivated to learn.
11. Be a true *witness* for Jesus Christ.

#### II. Responsibilities

##### F. Teachers

1. Be committed to preparation.
  - a. Know yourself
  - b. Know your purpose
  - c. Know your *pupils*
  - d. Know your subject

- e. Know how to teach
- f. *Know* your room and equipment.
2. Be committed to the teaching of the *Word* of God
  - a. Follow a specific plan
  - b. Use *effective* methods of impression (things that help the pupils to remember).
  - c. Use effective methods of expression (the ways we express ourselves — body language, as well as words).
  - d. Maintain classroom control.
3. Be committed to *evaluation*/assessment.
  - a. Assess your pupils.
  - b. Assess your teaching.
  - c. Assess yourself/self-reflection.
4. Be *committed* to training to upgrade skills. We should be looking for ways to improve ourselves and teach skills.
5. Be committed to outreach. There are thousands of people out there who need the Lord. Your own pupils may need a visit from you.
6. Be present each Sunday morning. BE EARLY!
7. Be focused on *learning*.



Registration previous to the Workshops



Browsing through the Displays



# THE CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP

## CRISIS IN LEADERSHIP:

### Preparing Church Members to Minister

by Ray Wells

Periodically we will feature an article from Dr. De Wayne Eakes' book *The Crisis of Leadership*. The book is available at the bookstores in Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson.

When asked, — "What makes a good baseball manager?" — Yogi Berra replied, "A good baseball team." That answer is true in baseball as well as in the church. What makes a good church? Good church members. The move involved the congregation is with the ministry of the church, the better the church will be.

Most ministers, if given the choice between gathering a large crowd for a community-wide crusade or having a lay person with a strong love for Christ share his/her faith daily with others, would certainly choose the latter. The same is true for the entire church. It is much better to involve the entire church in ministry rather than leave it all in the hands of the *religious professionals*. However, great ideas do not always translate into reality.

The following areas of difficulty were taken from the 1988 summer issue of *Leadership* magazine. The article was written by Wayne Jackson. He gives five reasons for the difficulty in involving the laity in ministry: (1) They aren't competent, (2) They aren't committed, (3) They aren't efficient, (4) They aren't available, (5) They aren't consistent.

Form the above list, the easiest conclusion to draw would be that teaching the congregation to minister is easier said than done. Thus, in the case of many churches, we leave the leadership and ministry in the hands of the *professionals*. The question remains: What should we do? How can we as ministers ever equip our people to be effective in their ministry?

The attitude of *let the pastor do it* is the prevailing attitude in the Original Free Will Baptist Church today. If we are to move forward, we must re-think our position of teaching the laity to minister.

In the same *Leadership* article, Mr. Jackson offers an answer to his five reasons as to why a lay ministry will not work.

(1) *They may not be competent, but they are per-*

*ceived as credible.* How often have we heard these words, "That's easy for you, you're the pastor," or "You have to do it, you get paid for it." When lay people provide a ministry in the name of Christ and the Church, they are perceived as dedicated and sincere. Their act is seen as having a greater significance than that of the pastor. We as Original Free Will Baptist ministers need to allow and encourage our members to minister in their own way to the needs of the community.

(2) *They aren't as committed to the program, but their motives can be purer.* They may not be as willing to *kill* themselves for a project or program, but perhaps neither should we. As pastors, we want the church to run like a well-oiled machine. A well-organized and maintained church always brings praise to the pastor as a great administrator. We often lose sight of the fact that a less maintained machine, though not as smooth and shiny, can also get the work done. We as pastors need to keep in mind that as shepherds, the sheep may not always stay in formation, but they are always sheep and always our responsibility. We need to learn to *loosen up* and let the congregation go at its own pace.

(3) *They aren't as efficient, but they can be more flexible.* Nearly every minister I know is led by a single book. It is not the Bible but the ever present Day-Timer. Our ministry revolves around what is written in that book. The congregation is not so much interested in what is scheduled as they are in doing a ministry when they can. I am not sure that ministry has to be efficient. Love isn't, and love is at the heart of real ministry. That is why the congregation needs to be guided by love and compassion rather than a certain job at a certain time.

(4) *They aren't as available, but they are better distributed.* We must learn that people may not always be available for meeting. When we look at ministry as touching people instead

### **Pastor Available**

The Rev. Clifford B. Harwood is available for Supply or Bi-vocational pastorate.

Contact

Rev. Clifford B. Harwood  
919-242-6218

The Rev. A. B. Bryan, of Wayne County, is available for Pastoral or Supply Work. He is a member, in good standing of the Eastern Conference.

Contact

Rev. A. B. Byran  
919-736-8996

231 Five Points Rd, Dudley, NC. 28333

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### **Pastor Needed**

The Oriental Original Free Will Baptist Church, Oriental, NC, is seeking a pastor. Consideration will be given to full time or bivocational applicants.

For more information contact:

Charles Mason  
919-249-1751 or  
Mike Styron  
919-249-1786

### **For Your Information**

The Rev. Mike Scott has accepted the pastorate of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church. His address is: 1305 Wilmar Road, Vanceboro, NC 28586, phone 919-244-3047.

### **Director of Youth Ministries Needed**

Saint Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, in New Bern, NC, is looking for an enthusiastic person for the full-time position of Director of Youth Ministries. Duties also include helping to coordinate programs and ministries for all ages in the church. If you are interested, please send your resume to:

Saint Mary's  
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New Bern, North Carolina 28563  
Attention: Director of Youth  
Ministries Committee

For more information you may  
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of attending meetings, then our congregation becomes more available to those who need ministering to in the community.

(5) *They may be inconsistent, but God is bigger than their failures.* We as pastors must learn that if God isn't able to take care of the church, there's little we can do. We must learn that God can override the mistakes of lay people just as well as he's been able to override our mistakes.

The need to involve the laity in the ministry of the church has been a topic of much discussion in our churches. Ministers are always wanting the congregation to get more involved in the work of the church. It is my belief that if lay ministry is to ever become a reality, ministers are going to have to relinquish their hold on the church. We must accept the truth that the church can go on without us and oftentimes in spite of us.

The challenge to use every person in ministry presents us with this alternative. If a tidy, smooth running, efficient church is our goal, we had better make sure every important task is done by the pastor. But if our goal is the harvest, we had better involve everyone, and cleaning up a mess occasionally is part of the price we pay. As a young

father said, "It took a little longer to make breakfast this morning. My kids helped me."

Paul writes, "We shall reap in due season if we do not faint." As pastors, we must never give up on ourselves, our congregations, or our efforts. We must begin to work as a team whose goal is to touch lives for Jesus. We can be good managers if we are willing to lead our congregations to be better teammates.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

##### **Ray Wells**

**Current Position:** Pastor of the Marsh Swamp Original Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson County.

**Education:** A.S. from Mount Olive College, B.A. from Atlantic Christian College (Barton)

**Family:** Wife Julie, two children, Alice and Daniel

**Denominational Work:** President of the Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists. President of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Moderator of the Western Conference of Free Will Baptists.



## *Out of the Past*

### **Gleanings from the 1960 Issues of *The Free Will Baptist***

The Bible Club of the High School in Tyrrell County, Columbia, NC, was organized in the fall of 1959, the first such club to be organized in that county. A group of young people saw the film, "Seventeen," and God laid it on their hearts to start a Bible Club in the school. Since this is not a school club, the students have to meet on their free time or during lunch period. There are sixteen members in the club. Mrs. Madge VanHorn is a sponsor of the club.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The North Carolina State League Convention will be held at the Greenville, North Carolina, Free Will Baptist Church, April 29-30. The Greenville church was admitted to the Central Conference on November 5, 1903, with a membership of 24. The first pastor was the late Rev. W. H. Laughinghouse.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The Daily Vacation Bible School Clinic will be held at Mount Olive College on April 23. The theme of the VBS materials is "Flame of the Spirit." There will be a complete display of VBS materials. Registration begins at 9:30 AM. Classes will adjourn at 2:30 PM.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Mount Olive College has been granted regional accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in annual session at Memphis, Tennessee. Unanimous approval was given on December 1.

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Dr. Pepper Worthington

# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Charles R. Swindoll. *Stress Fractures: Biblical Splints For Everyday Pressures*. Multnomah Press, 1990. 273 pages.

## Introduction: Part II

Stress fractures are those breaks in the spirit and heart that debilitate us, according to Charles Swindoll. When retirement age approaches, we find ourselves fearful of rusting-out of life rather than burning-out. Leisure, our death, eternity longings, and a need for hope all emerge in one human experience.

## Leisure

Why is it that we feel the need to work, work, work? Why is it that we view leisure as laziness or free time as wasted time? How can we view leisure less as a stress fracture and more as a creative healing?

For starters, how can we use leisure as a time for soul growth? Pastor Swindoll offers several helpful suggestions: (1) Use leisure to communicate with others; (2) Change the routine and add new interests from exercise to painting; (3) Take a long look at the stars; (4) Consciously develop friendships; (5) Forget the details of stress and focus on the mystery of the moon; (6) Meditate (155-172).

## Destiny

What is our destiny as we edge closer and closer toward death? What if our life has been dead wrong? How do we know if our destiny is toward God or toward nothingness?

Pastor Swindoll insists: "Slice it up and analyze it any way you wish, when we reduce our response to God's offer of salvation, it comes down to *faith*: being willing to abandon oneself, without reservation, to the eternal net God has spread...leaping while believing with absolute confidence that He will do as He promised" (182).

## Hope

How can hope become an anchor for the soul during times of stress fractures? What exactly is hope of God's presence when bad things happen to good people?

Pastor Swindoll stresses the all-encompassing position of hope: "Encouragement is the opposite of discouragement. Hope is the opposite of despair. When you accept the fact that sometimes seasons are dry and times are hard and that God is in control of both, you will discover a sense of divine refuge, because the hope then is in God and not in yourself. That explains why Abraham gave glory to God during the waiting period" (222).

Swindoll notes the words of one survivor of the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz: "It never occurred to me to question God's doings or lack of doings while I was an inmate of Auschwitz. God didn't come to our aid. God doesn't owe us that, or anything. We owe our lives to Him. If someone believes God is responsible for the death of six million Jews because He didn't somehow do something to save them, he's got his thinking reversed. We owe God our lives for the few or many years we live" (226-227).

## God's Will and Life Assurance

How do we know what God's will for us actually is? How do we know God is speaking to us rather than some other presence within our psyche? Does God give us a sign?

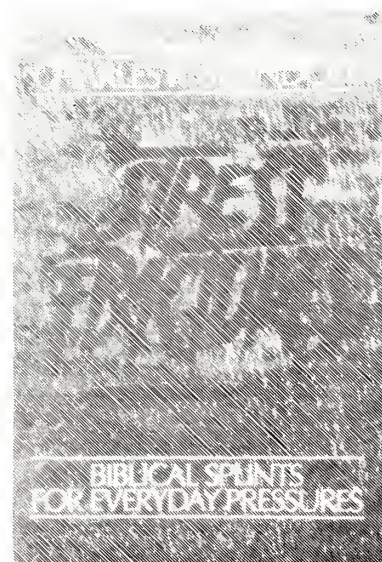
In order to get in touch with God's will, Swindoll suggests five habits: (1) Develop good health in order to avoid a "mental or emotional fog in the process of interpreting God's Will" (240); (2) Read the Bible as "a lamp for our feet and a light that shines brightly on our path" (Psalm 119:105); (3) Listen to the counsel of qualified people; (4) Observe whether peace and satisfaction become a part of choice; (5) Pray.

In an age obsessed with *life insurance*, what about *life assurance* both in life and death? Is there any life assurance?

The Apostle Paul reminds us: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31-39).

## Conclusion

Stress fractures are a part of modern living. Charles Swindoll reminds us that "God's great net of security spans this globe" (268).



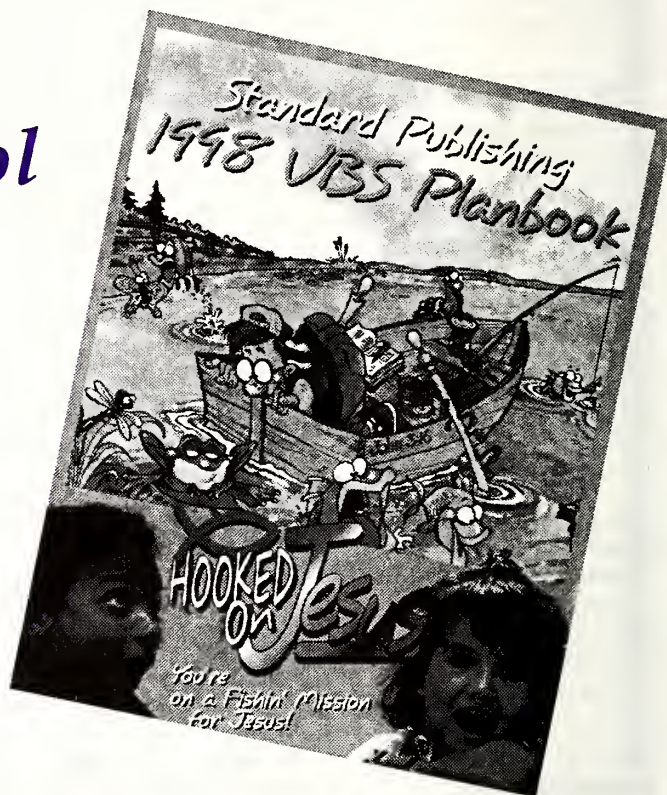
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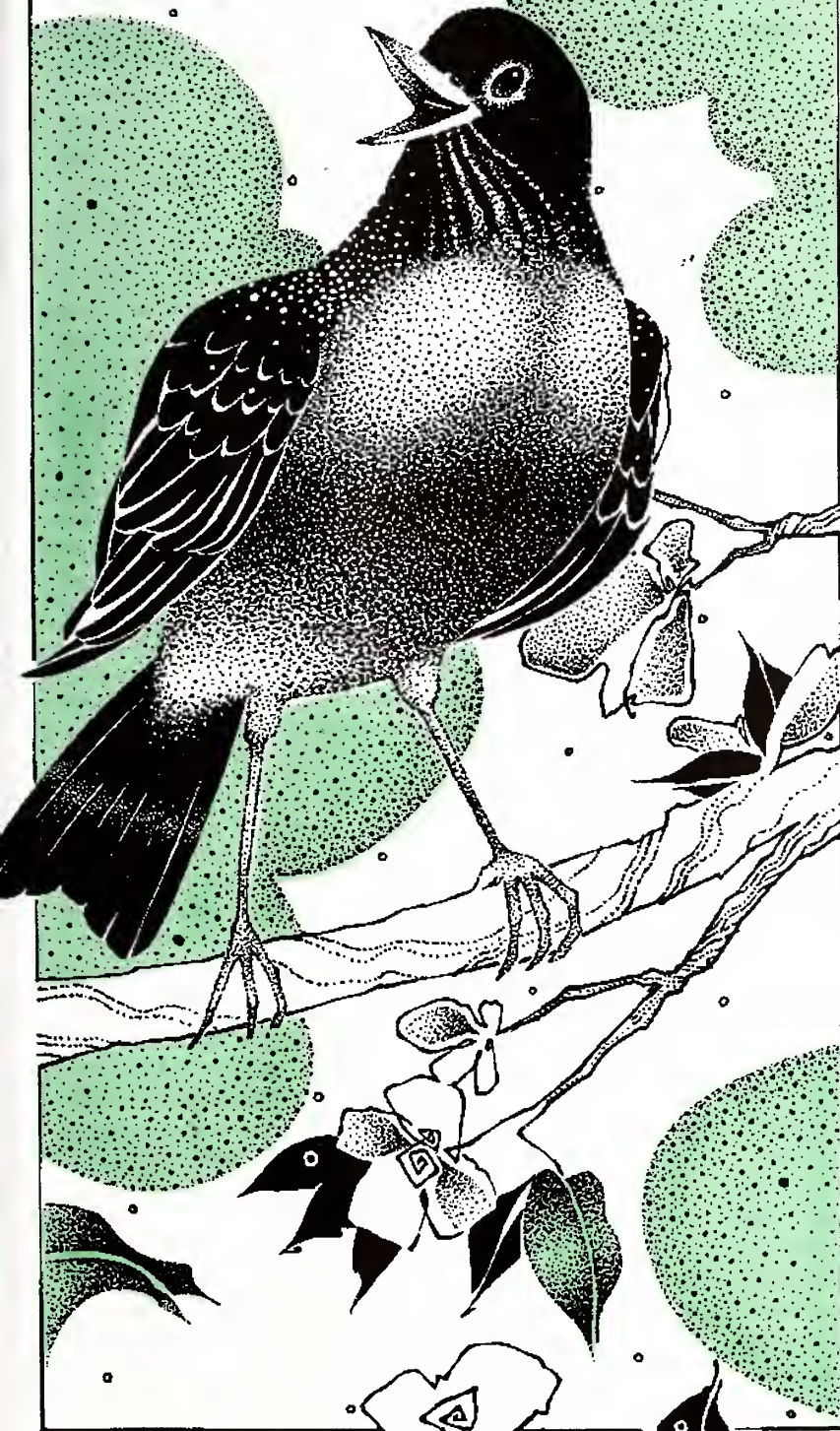
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# The Free Will

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## Where Are the Watchmen?

A "watchman's" job is to stand guard or to keep watch. The word is used several times in the Old Testament in reference to prophets (see Isaiah 56:10, Jeremiah 6:17, Hosea 9:8). In Ezekiel 3:17, we read God's appointment (calling) of Ezekiel as a watchman: "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word of my mouth, and give them warning from me." The specifics of Ezekiel's responsibilities are then given.

Ezekiel's tasks were rather complicated. Along with thousands of others, he had been taken captive by the Babylonians in 597 BC. It was several years into captivity before the Lord chose him to be a watchman. He had been "sitting" among the captives, offering consolation and comfort whenever and wherever he could; however, that was not enough. He would, as God commissioned him, begin to speak God's message to the captive "house of Israel," warning them of impending judgment. The wicked would be warned to turn from their wicked ways and the righteous were warned against turning again to evil.

It is folly to fail to heed the watchman's warnings. The consequence for Judah was Babylonian captivity. God's watchman, regardless of disbelief and rejection by many, must be faithful in sounding the warning, thus delivering his soul.

Matthew Henry states: "...ministers are watchmen on the church's walls" (*A Commentary on the Whole Bible*, Volume 4, Page 767). Thus, it is the minister's divine obligation to sound the warnings when and if the flock is in danger. It is his responsibility to warn against false teachings. He must protect the church against practices and liberalistic ideas that destroy the truth of the Word, that result in confusion and the scattering of the flock. Paul admonished the Ephesians to "...walk circumspectly..." (Ephesians 5:15). This means that the believer is to live carefully, that he must be fully aware of things going on around him. If the watchman faithfully discharges his obligations in teaching, admonishing, warning, etc., the possibility of losing a member will be less likely. Thus, the minister's message must always remain focused on God's eternal Word; and its proclamation must be without doubts and reservations as to its truths and inspiration.

As watchmen, ministers (pastors) must also warn the wicked of the consequences of their evil ways. The Word of God is truth. It declares that "...the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). To focus on the first part of this verse without including the last part is to omit the truth of God's grace which is sufficient to forgive all sins. His grace, however, cannot be experienced without personal repentance and faith. For too long, we have compromised our convictions and God's Word because of our fear that

if we truly speak out against the evils of our day someone in our church will become offended. So we say little, if anything, about the sin of adultery, homosexuality,

abortion, and the many other evils that plague us. We are observing a generation (maybe more) who have grown up in a violent, sex-oriented world that has set its own so-called standards. Vulgarity, rudeness, and obscenities are now heard on radio and TV. Parental disobedience, coupled with an unthankful attitude, have divided families into what is now referred to as "dysfunctional." Divorce has become the "norm," instead of the exception. In recent weeks we have been told that at one time or another everyone lies; therefore, we shouldn't criticize anyone who does, especially our leaders. Seldom these days do we hear anyone refer to the principles of the Word of God, that they should be our rule of conduct in life. In fact, fewer and fewer people in our society really know or care what the Ten Commandments say, or what Christ taught about righteous living and moral conduct.

Shamefully, as watchmen, we have not faithfully followed the instructions that Paul gave Timothy: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2). We may think we are preaching, that we are faithful at all times without reproving, rebuking, and exhorting; but are we?

In conversation with a fellow minister a few weeks ago, our conversation focused on the declining morals evident in our country. His conclusion was, "It's time for our preachers to once again stand upon the Word and proclaim 'thus saith the Lord.'" As with Israel long ago, some will not heed the Word. To others it is outdated and meaningless anyway. Remember, as with Ezekiel, the faithful watchman is the one who will deliver his own soul.

The watchman, who is also the shepherd over the believers, must also "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock; And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (1 Peter 5:2-4). Preaching the Word is also feeding the flock. Is there any better combination?

Where are the watchmen? Let's hope and pray they are truly "filling the pulpits" of America, that they are boldly and uncompromisingly proclaiming the gospel truth, that Jesus saves those who call upon Him and put their trust in Him.



C. H. Oerman

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## NEXT MONTH

*June is  
Cragmont  
Assembly  
Month*

*May is  
Children's Home  
Month*



## PRICELESS FIGURES SITTING ON A SHELF

### *A Tribute to*

### *The Rev. Luther and Peanie Swinson*

by Elaine Swinson

There was once a time when these two figures, now reposing upon the shelf of life, were used everyday without a thought of wear and tear. Each day they ran a race with the sun to see who would start their morning first, anxious to fulfill their daily tasks. Their steps were light and quick, and their minds raced to prioritize their agenda.

Many times the phone demanded their attention, while breakfast grew cold. Daddy would tell Mama that Brother or Sister so-and-so needed him to come *right then* — they had trouble and only he could help. “Eat just a mouthful,” she would beg. “You know you might not get a chance to eat again for a while.” Even as she spoke, her feet took her down the hall to get a clean white shirt and a suit and tie from the closet.

Dressed as Daddy thought a minister of God should be and carrying his worn Bible under his arm, he sped off in his car to answer the call for help. Mama stood at the door and prayed that the Lord would watch out for him, before she turned to clear the table and begin her vigil of waiting until he returned. Sometimes these trips lasted only an hour or two and others would last on until the night. Mama would step to the window and peer down the road every once in a while, hoping to catch a glimpse of his return.

They were a familiar sight at the hospitals in the area as they came and went to visit the members of the congregations and their families. It seems like someone was always either sick or having a baby, which required their

presence to either give comfort or congratulations. Many times the trips to the hospital became a visit to the funeral home to bid a final farewell.

“I pronounce you husband and wife,” was a frequently heard phrase wherever Mama and Daddy lived. The brides and grooms were different ages, shapes and sizes, but the rituals were always the same — rehearsals, ceremonies and receptions. Everyone took it for granted that the minister and his wife had just the right outfit to wear. Most didn’t realize that sometimes it was difficult to come up with the extra cash to keep that “correct attire” always handy.

The years were passing quickly now. Mama and Daddy’s children were grown and married with children of their own. Many times I heard them express sorrow that they had spent so little time with their daughters and son while they were growing up. The churches and congregations they served seemed to take second place in their lives — right after God, which left the family to be delegated to third place. If they could only know, the examples they were setting for their family and their dedication to God and His work were the greatest gifts any parents could ever give their children. For that gift they will always be eternally grateful.

The love I feel for my father and mother-in-law was multiplied in the greatest way possible. Because of their witness of Christ to me, I accepted Him as my personal Saviour. I was seventeen when my father-in-law delivered the message at Lanier’s Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, which changed my life and paved the way for me to become a minister’s wife to their son. God made it possible for me to become Daddy’s first convert. He baptized me a short while later, and while the baptismal service only took a few minutes, the impact it made on my life lasted forever.

Daddy and Mama have given their lives for others, spending all their fruitful years in service for their Lord, sacrificing the best part of their time, money, and energy in order for others to accept Jesus into their

---

*...for you not only  
gave me your only  
son to be my  
husband, but you  
gave me the most  
precious gift of all,  
my Lord Jesus  
Christ.*

---

# In Dedication to My Mother...

by Frieda Craft

hearts. In the darkness of the mornings, Daddy spent many hours without sleep, praying that God would give him the words he needed to guide his flock in the right direction, while Mama lay in bed praying for Daddy.

As God called Daddy and Mama to different churches, each time they left a legacy of love to each member of the congregation. They weren't able to fix all the problems they encountered along the way, which broke their hearts. It is my sincere hope that these congregations do remember all the visits to their homes, the hospitals, the funeral homes and the messages preached to send the message of salvation to all who would hear in their families and neighborhoods. Daddy and Mama shed many tears for the lost and rejoiced with the saved — giving all they had to their adopted families.

Retirement is a magic word to those who are working in full force without enough time to really enjoy the pleasures of life; but, when you are called by God into service, retirement does not hold the same magic. The burden for the lost remains forever imbedded into the hearts of the workers even when they reach an age they can no longer serve as Pastor to a flock.

Sitting on a shelf, relieved of the obligation of rising early each day to attend to the needs of their congregation has left an empty feeling. Perhaps those of you who may have been touched by something that Mama and Daddy did or said will remember that those dear folks still care for you and pray for you daily.

Mama and Daddy Swinson, you are very special. I want the whole world to know that I thank God every day that our lives have crossed, for you not only gave me your only son to be my husband, but you gave me the most precious gift of all, my Lord Jesus Christ.

Love, Elaine

The Rev. and Mrs. Luther Swinson  
451 Gurganus Road  
Maple Hill, NC 28454  
Phone: 910-346-0867

She cradles in her loving arms a baby sleeping soundly. Her swollen tear-welling eyes gaze toward heaven in thanks for this small miracle He has created. Unshaken is her faith that God will somehow save this child who has been given little hope.

"I know I will make mistakes," she says, "but I will rear this child in your light and show her your love. Be our strength and shield, dear Lord." Her promise kept. His promise received.

She carries in her loving arms a child smiling peacefully. In earnest prayers she looks toward heaven asking God to protect this youth who again faces an uncertain future.

"You have kept her with me, dear Lord. I will continue to lead her by your Word. Protect her and keep her in your care." Her promise kept. His promise received.

She embraces in her arms a girl laughing sweetly. Her head lifted toward heaven, she asks for God's strength to again face the unknown with this adolescent.

"Lord, my child is your child. I have not forgotten who has kept her with me all these years. I will continue to teach her to look to you for guidance. Please guard her in your loving care." Her promise kept. His promise received.

She holds in her tired, loving arms a woman crying quietly. She watches her child, remember God's blessings continually bestowed. Again, she peers toward heaven with hope God will answer her request.

"I trust you with all my heart, dear Lord. My daughter has also learned to have faith in your promise. She needs your arms around her like my arms are around her now. Assure her of your presence. I will never let her forget from where the blessings of life have come. Protect her, lead her, guide her. Keep her in your loving care." Her promise kept.

Then God said, "I am with you always. I created you with the ability to love beyond measure. I have given you open doors to strengthen your faith. I chose you as the mother of this special child, because I knew you would not forsake my Word. I have granted again this desire of your heart. Be called 'Blessed' in my name, dear mother." His promise received.



# Some Motherly Advice on Being a Mother

by Lorraine Pintus

Mothering is an exhausting, all-consuming process that requires energy, concentration, perseverance, patience, and a host of other elusive attributes. What mother has not wondered at some point in her parenting, "Will I ever make it to the day when my youngest is potty trained?"

I talked with eight parents who successfully survived the formative years of their children. "If you could share one ounce of advice to encourage mothers in the stresses of rearing preschoolers, what would it be?" I asked. Here are their responses:

**Live one day at a time.** Madalene Harris, mother of four, says, "Sometimes it's good not to look too far down the road. For thirteen years I changed diapers. That thought overwhelmed me! But changing diapers for one day? I could handle that. Matthew 6:34 says, 'Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.' When life was difficult I'd tell myself, 'Just get through today. Forget tomorrow.' That helped, not only when my children were young, but later when I lost my husband to cancer. I now know that it is best to live life one day at a time."

**Don't be afraid to ask for help.** "As much as you need help is as much as I need to give it," suggests Kit May, mother of three. "I love to help others. It's fun! We all need help. We all need to be helped. That's why God gave us to each other. John 16:24 says, 'Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.' Never be afraid to ask someone to help you."

**Keep your marriage a priority.** First you have a husband, then you have kids. It's easy to forget the importance of that order when your children are little, say Sherron Hudson, mother of two adult children. "There were times I was so stressed out from my day that I dumped on John the minute he walked through the door. That didn't work. What did work was to make John my first priority. I began spending the last thirty minutes before he came home preparing for his arrival. I'd put the kids in their rooms for a

quiet time, comb my hair, put on a clean blouse, splash on some perfume, and pick up the house. When John opened the door, I greeted him with a kiss. Over time, his attitude about coming home changed. As I was sensitive to meet his needs, he became eager to meet mine. The best thing I did for my children — and my marriage — was to honor John and put his needs first."

**Keep your goals simple.** Lauri Bumann, mother of three, remembers, "When my children were babies, I felt as though I accomplished nothing. Doug would ask me at dinner, 'What did you do today?' and I couldn't point to a thing! So instead of setting goals I'd never achieve, I set one or two simple goals. I'd take the kids on a walk and use that time to talk to God. This accomplished a spiritual goal and an exercise goal. Instead of having friends over for a five-course meal, I'd invite them for dessert. Sometimes I'd think, 'That's not much.' But it was realistic! And it kept me moving in a positive direction."

**Cherish each moment.** John Davis, father of two teenagers, suggests, "Be glad that, right now, your kids want to be with you. In the snap of your fingers, they'll be gone. The other day I asked Jeff if he wanted to go to the movies with me. He said, 'No, Dad, I've already made plans with my friends.' It seems like yesterday that he was four, tugging on my pants legs, begging me to play with him. Now I am the one doing the begging. None of us can return to those early years once they are gone. That is why it is so important to enjoy the moments while you have them."

**Apply consistent discipline early on.** One of the best ways to ensure future peace is to be willing to have a little conflict early on, says Pat Reger, speaker for Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPs). "I tell mothers, discipline your children when they are young if you want them to be responsible when they are adults. Be consistent. Think before you threaten. Follow through on what you say. Doing this now will prevent a lot of headache in the future." Hebrews 12:11 says, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

**Don't neglect your spiritual life.** Phyllis

Excerpt from *Diapers, Pacifiers, and Other Holy Things* by Lorraine Pintus, Chariot Victor Publishing. She contributes to many Christian magazines, speaks at conferences, and leads Hearts of Home Ministries marriage seminars with her husband. Used by permission.

Stanley regularly mentors mothers with young children. "For many women," she says, "mothering does not come naturally. But we can mother supernaturally if we rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. It is impossible to realize that power without spending some time reading the Word of God and praying. Make your kids have quiet time so you can have your quiet time."

**Be willing to admit when you are wrong.** Don Couchman, grandfather of three, offers this: "It's important to be humble and honest with your children. If you make a mistake, admit it. Your kids are smart. They will realize you are not perfect. As teenagers, they will be more likely to share their struggles with you and seek your counsel if you have been open in the past about your own failures."

Advice salted with Godly wisdom from nine seasoned parents—I have some tips of my own to share, not nearly as profound, but useful nonetheless.

1. Buy stock in companies that produce bandages and diapers. You will feel a sense of elation at being personally responsible for the economic success of these firms.
2. For girls, never buy a dress without first considering the "twirl" factor.
3. For boys, don't worry if the only word he knows is "vroom."
4. Keep your sense of humor. What upsets you now will be good joke material in five years.
5. In all situations, apply the "Thousand Year Test." Ask yourself, "In a thousand years, will anyone care?"
6. Don't be too hard on yourself. You will fail. Forgive yourself and move on.
7. Above all, love "because love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). ■

# What Our World Needs Most

## The Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture

by Dr. Pepper Worthington, Writer-in-Residence, Mount Olive College  
Part II

"This afternoon I want to say more about *making all of life a prayer*," began Dr. Hinson as he sipped a glass of water after the buffet meal in the Hennessee Room at the Murphy Center. "We must pay great attention to our inner life. As 1 Thessalonians 5:17 reminds us: *Pray without ceasing*. Some people may take this literally and pray without ceasing by reciting all the Psalms all day. Psalm 119 might take a long time, but the prayer in our heart for the day might be: *Have mercy on me, a sinner*. With this prayer we might practice the presence of God. We might maintain an attitude about having a passionate regard to God. We might want to keep the love of God in our minds. You know how it is when you are in love. You can't keep the beloved out of your mind. I remember when I was so in love with my wife and I wanted to give her an engagement ring. I drove ten miles with my emergency brake on to give the ring to my wife," he admitted.

"How can we keep the presence of God before us in our hearts all day?" he asked. "We must learn to listen to God. We must learn how to be attentive to God. God has built messages to us in the order of things. God has beamed messages to us from the heavens which are telling the glory of God. God's voice goes out to us. Voice is not a matter of physical sound but a matter of inner revelation. Jesus drew object lessons from nature and so can we. We can learn how to listen. We can learn how to enter like a child into the story of nature. The Hebrew way of knowing is not the Cartesian way of empirical observation and radical reflection. No. The Hebrew way of knowing is the way of the story. We must enter the story like a child, and the story then will open up insight. I remember asking a rabbi a question and he'd answer with a story. Nature is in one way God's story, and we should try to discern in nature what God is trying to communicate," he said.

"The story is essential," he continued. "The Hebrews see nature as a story, history as a story. God is the Lord of all history. Certain particular stories are contained within larger stories. And the story of all stories for the Hebrews is the story of the exodus from Egypt. As we read the story of the exodus, we need to enter into the imagination of the story and let the story do a job on us, let the story help us to understand God and our purpose in the world. Stories have a powerful impact upon us."

He paused as if to decide whether to tell a personal story or not. The risk in communicating won, because he wished to demonstrate the importance of the imagination in human experience.

"Let me tell you about Bertha Brown," he began. "Bertha was 19 when she came to teach in a one-room schoolhouse in the mountains. Her hair was already turning white. By her second year, her hair was all white. I remember her when my world was falling apart. My mother and father were getting a divorce. When I would walk in the school yard, Bertha would say to me, 'You can make it, Glenn. You can make it.' Bertha was kind. Bertha was faithful. She never missed a day of school. She only missed one morning until noon when it had snowed 13 inches and was 23 degrees below zero. She died of throat cancer. Bertha showed a steadfast faithfulness to me as she said over and over to me, 'You can make it, Glenn. You can make it.' Bertha's story is a good one. She knew the presence of God. God's self-disclosure was in her," he said.

Cont. on next page



## Our World Needs Saints Most

"And the story of stories is the story of Jesus in the Gospels," he declared. I wondered how his eyes would read the ancient texts in contrasts to the way a rigorous historian might read the texts. If the Duke conference had taught one thing, surely it was that history depends upon the eye of the beholder.

"To enter the story of Jesus," he began, "is to let the story open up insight and open up God to us. We must enter into the story that is nature where we listen to God. We must enter into the story of Jesus so that as we go through life, we can listen to our own lives. If only we knew how to listen," he moaned. "If only we knew how to listen to God in all of life, then all of life would become a prayer. God's self-disclosure is in Jesus and if we could see, if we could pay attention, then we might see God's self-disclosure in all life. George Herbert cried out; *Teach me in all things Thee to see.*

"In order to perceive God in all things, we must learn to be good listeners," he said. "There are four qualities of a good listener. First, a good listener needs to be *vulnerable*. What do I mean? To be vulnerable means to be capable of being wounded. To be vulnerable means not to see yourself above ordinary mortals. Lepers are good listeners because they are vulnerable.

"Second, a good listener needs to have *acceptance* of others. Acceptance does not mean toleration born of indifference. Acceptance is closer to *agape* love which in the New Testament means to accept a person as the person is and not to seek to squeeze the person into your mold.

"Third, a good listener has the quality of *expectancy*. By expectancy I mean something to do with hope. What is the secret of people who have expectancy? They are hopeful people. They live on the bright side of life. We all know life has a dark side. We all know there are awful

things to face. But a person with a quality of expectancy helps others see a ray of light coming through dark clouds. Martin Buber once said that the greatest thing one person can do for another is to confirm what is deepest in another. Buber said that as a young professor, he remembered when a student came to his office to talk to him. Buber was busy thinking about the next thing he was going to do, so he did not pay full attention to the student. The student left the office and committed suicide. From that moment on Buber knew how essential it was to be present to others," he said. Others were the Thou in an I-Thou experience.

"Fourth, a good listener has the quality of *constancy*. This quality is the infinite patience to stay with the other person. This constancy is necessary to hear the other person. There are many levels of conversation. There are words and more words. Below the words are the person trying to communicate. In the dialogue, there is the one speaking and the one listening. But God is also there. God's inescapable nearness remains. *If I make my bed in sheol, thou art there.* There is nowhere where God is not," he proclaimed.

"Teilhard de Chardin once said that we must overcome death by finding God in us. Yes. And I might add that we must overcome sickness by finding God in us. We must overcome the traumatic things that happen to us in life by finding God in us. We must let this story of God woven into nature saturate our lives. We must learn to listen and to see God. We are not doing well in our modern culture. We don't listen. We don't see. We get caught up in our crowded calendars. Once we develop a program as the Southern Baptists have, God can't get a word into it.

"We are a distracted age. A New York University student stood on his head in Central Park for eight hours and only two people noticed. A man

sat in a bus in Chicago until his feet froze and no one asked to help him. What do these two stories tell us about our listening, seeing, or paying attention?" he asked. I thought of Wordsworth's sonnet where the getting and spending lay waste our powers.

"How do we improve our listening? I have two recommendations. First, *spend time with people who are hurting*. Mother Teresa spent time with the poorest of the poor and her work deepened her spirit. Today there is too little blood around the heart. Now I understand we can't stand exposure to people who are hurting all the time. To be in the midst of starvation as in Ethiopia or massacres as in Rwanda — hardens the heart," he admitted. Exposure but not overexposure is needed, I thought.

"Second, *spend time in solitude and silence*. Retreat is a necessary reality of life. Solitude takes us away from distractions. When all our senses are overloaded, only drawing back will permit you the time necessary to get collected. Silence sensitizes in the way that noise desensitizes. Luke has constant references to Jesus withdrawing from crowds, moving away into solitude and silence. When we feel uncollected, we must retreat to get collected. Silence allows the senses to be recorded. I remember a trappist monk who came out in a courtyard, stopped, and asked, 'Did you hear the katydid?' No one else heard the katydid. No one else knew how to listen.

"We all need a daily retreat. My retreat is a three-mile walk before breakfast. This forty-five minutes of solitude and silence gives me time to get collected. This forty-five minutes is the most important investment of my time for the day. By taking that time to pay attention to God, I am then able to get collected, to get more done, to write more deeply, to be more fully present to my students. When I am collected, I am able to

## Our World Needs Saints Most

create and re-create. I can't afford not to have that.

"In addition to retreat time once a day, I recommend spending a whole day of solitude and silence once a month at least. And twice a year I recommend retreats of 36 to 48 hours or longer if possible. Catholic monasteries are open for retreats. When Thomas Merton was asked why he was in a monastery, he told students he was there because he believed in prayer. The key thing in a monastery is to gain attentiveness, to gain the attentiveness to the presence of God.

"Let me tell you a story," he continued. "A 102-year-old lady asked help in her prayer life. She had talked to experts for years. People told her to spend time with praying prayers of the heart. She had done this over and over again, but she had never experienced the presence of God. What could she do? A friend told her that her problem might be that she was talking too much. The friend suggested that she put all the objects of distraction behind her chair. The 102-year-old lady did this. In a couple of weeks she came back to her friend and reported: *It works*. Her friend responded: *What works?* The 102-year-old woman explained that as she looked at her room, she discovered it was a very nice room. As she looked out the window, she saw a very nice yard. She then put all the objects that distracted her behind her big chair. She sat down in her chair and started knitting. As she sat alone in the silence, she heard the clock ticking. She felt her arms bump the chair. Suddenly she noticed something different. She told her friend: *I noticed that the silence was not nothing and the silence was something and the silence was a presence.*"

Dr. Hinson stopped, opened his mouth to a giant-sized O. No one moved. Slowly he added his last comment.

"We must learn to be attentive to

the presence of God. I am aware that I'm not alone in what I am doing. I am aware I am infinitely loved of God."

### TO RETREAT

*The day dug its minutes into duties,  
hour to hour a fearful fret  
of needs, anguish, more needs  
as if the world were a back street  
of tenement buildings, windows  
wide  
with faces thrust out  
crying, demanding, fighting  
for space fresh-filled with oxygen  
in which to live  
and move  
and have a sense of being.*

*The wanderer walked through gusts  
of words  
hoping to help an ache, a fear, hot  
anger  
only to find the corner lamp  
unlit, no light ahead  
to end lines of darkness  
when faces thrust out  
pouting, cursing, shouting  
for space fresh-filled with oxygen  
in which to live  
and move  
and have a sense of being*

*The hillside with its secret caves  
waited through twilight for  
wanderers  
in search of themselves, their voices  
as if the masquerade of time  
must bring the journey to silence  
where no one's face, no one's words  
broke solitude and soul  
space brim-full of oxygen  
in which to live  
attentive  
to being and more Being.*

### QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Dr. Hinson was asked to comment in a more personal way about practices he uses to develop his own spiritual life. Gladly did he learn and

gladly did he teach, as he answered.

"My father was an alcoholic," he admitted. "When he was sober, he was an atheist. When he was drunk, he was a fundamentalist."

Laughter erupted like thunder.

"I look at my life as a miracle of grace," he said. "If I were ever to write an autobiography, the title should be *A Miracle of Grace*. I am so fortunate to have ordinary saints scratching around in the soil of my soul. Bertha Brown, O. C. Marsh, Thomas Merton, and others have been in my life. There are people whose lives have saturated mine.

"My life is a miracle of grace. I was fortunate to go to Washington University in St. Louis. I went there to become a lawyer. I was making my choice for the wrong reason. I wanted prestige and money. I had grown up in poverty and I did not want to be poor. I attended a church where the pastor was a fundamentalist but the members were not. The pastor kept asking me: *What are you going to do with your life?* His question pushed me into a crisis of faith and vocation. I remember my junior year at Washington University. I awakened bolt upright one night at 2 AM and felt John 8:32 flood me: *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*. I realized that if God is truth, then nothing will negate that. Truth was personal and nothing could prove that wrong.

"I gave up law. I studied theology. Later I began teaching at Southern Seminary and I found myself losing my hearing. As a child I suffered from numerous earaches, but we didn't have money to go to doctors. Deafness is in my family on my mother's side. I was working so hard at the seminary that I also began to lose my voice. I wore myself down. I remember I would clench my fist and ask: *Lord, why me?* Then I read 2 Corinthians 12:9: *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*

Cont. on next page



## Our World Needs Saints Most

*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

"After reading this I began to hear the voice of God tell me that grace is sufficient. The key to me in life is that — grace is sufficient. For me to recover my own voice, I had to go to therapy. I had to let myself go down like a swimmer to discover buoyancy. I had to learn how to relax to discover buoyancy. You know if a swimmer panics in water and begins to swing and kick, the swimmer can wear himself out in the water. People can also wear themselves out emotionally.

"I remember in the late '70s and '80s, after the division among the Southern Baptists, I began reading the origins of totalitarianism. I studied the German churches in the Third Reich. I realized the importance of speaking out. Sometimes the most dangerous thing is to be silent. My own *modus operandi* had been to avoid conflict at all cost, to steer around confrontation. But I began studying Martin Luther King, Jr. and I read about his own house being bombed in Montgomery. He was only 27. In his fear, King sat at his kitchen table and poured out his tears, expressed his fright. Suddenly it came to him what he must do. Words from *Amazing Grace* rang in his ears: *'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.* I believe this, too.

"I have had opportunities to grow and to experience grace. I was able to attend Washington University and Oxford — not to my brilliance but by grace. I feel just as Douglas Speer felt that maybe life's interruptions often turn out to be God's opportunities," he concluded. ■

## Layman's League

### Dates to Remember

- May 2 State Layman's League, Free Union Church, Walstonburg, 7:00 PM.  
May 7 Executive Board, VFW Building, 106 Hines Street, Snow Hill, 7:30 PM.  
May 23 State Layman's League Singspiration, Harrells Chapel, Snow Hill, 6:00 PM. (Please call Elmer Harrell, 747-2894, if you or a group from your church would like to sing.)  
June 5-6 Spiritual Life Retreat, Camp Vandemere.

## Spiritual Life Retreat

### Camp Vandemere, NC

June 5-6, 1998

"...whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4).

Theme: "Standing on the Promises"

Friday, June 5

6:00 PM Fellowship and Sharing Time

Saturday, June 6

9:00-9:30 AM Fellowship Time

9:30-10:15 AM "Standing on the Promises in Redemption"

The Rev. Frank Flowers

10:15-10:45 AM Recreation and Fellowship

10:45-11:30 AM "Standing on the Promises in Sonship"

Mr. Elmer Harell

11:30-1:00 PM Lunch and Recreation

1:00-1:45 PM "Standing on the Promises in the Word"

The Rev. David C. Hansley

1:45-2:15 PM Recreation

2:15-2:45 PM Prayer and Meditation

2:45-3:30 PM Sharing Time

3:30 PM Benediction

### Registration for Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

Each person planning to attend the retreat is requested to complete and return this form by May 1, 1998.

Make checks for overnight accommodations payable to the State Layman's League. (\$5.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check appropriate blanks)

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 6, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere Friday night, June 5, 1998.

Please return this form to:

Mr. Robert Tripp, 305 Piney Neck Road, Vanceboro, NC 27586

# Camp Vandemere

## Our Family Enrichment Center

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

Spring has finally arrived. The trees and flowers are beginning to bloom and you can feel excitement in the air. Spring brings new life, new growth, and new visions.

Spring also causes me to think of Camp Vandemere. We are excited about the camp being open and you all coming down to visit with us. The camp schedule is in place and we are just waiting for the first week and our first campers for the new season. As you think about new growth and new life, we see these for the camp. We see young people coming to the camp renewing their commitment to our Lord and Saviour. Others will come and find new life by accepting Christ as their Saviour. There will be churches who will come for a weekend and while they are there will renew their zeal to serve the Lord. Yes, we at Camp Vandemere feel an excitement in the air.

This excitement brings with it "hard work." Just recently, I attended the Fifth Union Sunday School Convention. The speaker was Mrs. Mary Dudley. As she talked about building a Sunday school, she reminded us that it takes "hard work" to build a successful Sunday school. She is right. This reminds me of an old saying, "Anything worth having, is worth working for." Isn't our Lord worth the "hard work" it takes to build a successful Sunday school, church, and successful camp. Mrs. Dudley did a great job presenting the Sunday school, you should invite her to your church to talk about Sunday school.

Just recently a group of men met at the camp to build more bunk beds. They arrived and found that our manager had arranged for all the necessary materials to be ready and waiting for them. Soon after they arrived, they began to go to work-cutting, drilling, and bolting the

materials together. Plans were to make 10 new beds that are wider and lower to the floor. They will use a twin-size mattress. Plans are under way for the youth of Peace Church, Central Conference, to make 10 beds the same way to give us a total of 20 new beds. This means we are ready for 40 new mattresses. It took "hard work" to build these beds. It will take "hard work" to raise the necessary funds to buy the mattresses. I believe we can do it: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

Don't forget to encourage your young people to attend camp this summer. We have several weeks already scheduled and each one has a very good and qualified director. We still have some weeks open if a group would like to utilize this time. If you would like more information, please contact our manager. At the Sunday School Convention I heard of a church that encouraged their young people to attend Camp Vandemere. Out of this group eight young people accepted the Lord. Surely it was worth all the "hard work" that went into getting these children to camp and raising the funds to pay their way.

Don't forget our all-day gospel sing that is scheduled for Saturday, August 1. Last year was our first and we are excited about this one. Mark it on your calendar so you won't forget this exciting day. All kinds of events will be going on. There will be plenty of singing, fellowshiping, cake auction, yard sale, as well as food for the whole family. We are looking forward to seeing you that day.

We have installed the new air conditioner in the men's dorm and the lobby. This is something that has been needed for some time, and we are very pleased to be able to do this. It is not wired up yet; we are having to do some major rewiring to accommodate

the installation of this unit. Once we have it all in working order, I am sure we all will enjoy the cool air this summer.

The board has voted to go ahead with a new ice machine. This was necessary due to our old one continuing to break down. As we purchase new equipment, we are trying to plan for the future as well as for the present. The board tries very hard to be good stewards of what you have entrusted to us.

There are several projects that we would like to do at the camp. We need to do a lot of work to the Gillikin house. One of the things we would like to do is remodel and furnish the kitchen. This would be available for those who stay in the family lodge as well as those who use the dorm or even those who camp for the weekend. The main kitchen is usually closed to the public due to health regulations. You might have a group in your church that would like to take on this or similar projects that could be done on weekends or even during the week. We would furnish the lodging for any group who would like to do such a project. If you would like more information concerning this, please contact our manager (Mr. Aldric Gaskins 252-745-3171, camp; 252-637-4949).

Let me say that we appreciate what you have been doing for Camp Vandemere. It is evident that you have been praying for the camp and you have been supporting it financially, as well as with your presence. We are very thankful for all you are doing for the camp.

Continue to pray for us, come for a visit, and send us your young people this summer. It takes "hard work" to accomplish all that we are doing for our Saviour, but it certainly will be worth it. May the Lord bless and keep you.



## CHILDREN'S HOME



### "Change For Children 98"

The change for children was a huge success last year. Again this year, we believe the Lord will bless the efforts of many Free Will Baptists who give their change for Children's Home ministry. The campaign generates financial support for us during the crucial summer months, helped with the costs of cottage renovations, and also increased awareness of our child care ministry.

We would like to say a special thanks to all of our churches who participated in last year's campaign. This campaign gave everyone an opportunity to experience giving in a simple and economical way.

We would like to invite everyone to save your change again this year. We are sending the information, bulletin inserts, and bags to our pastors and churches to help them prepare for the launching of the "Change for Children '98" campaign the first Sunday in May.

At the end of May all collection bags will be turned into your church. Your pastor or church officer will be responsible for sending the funds to the Children's Home.

Please be in prayer for our ministry at the Home and for another successful year with

the "Change For Children" campaign. Thank you for the support. Your gifts make a difference in the lives of the children we serve.

#### We request that you:

- Pray for the Children's Home ministry.
- Encourage all of your family members to save their change for the Children's Home during the month of May.
- Designate a Sunday in May as Children's Home Sunday.
- Support the Children's Home in this campaign.

#### This opportunity will:

- Encourage Free Will Baptist families to work together collecting their change.
- Provide Free Will Baptists and new members the opportunity to learn more about the Children's Home.
- Increase awareness of your child care ministry.
- Increase financial support from our churches.

May God bless you in all of your endeavors.

*Alumni Homecoming '98  
Sunday,  
July 12, 1998  
Free Will Baptist  
Children's Home*

*May is  
Children's  
Home Month*

### A Parent's Pledge

I promise to...

Listen to my children

Communicate with my children

Teach my children right from wrong and be a good role model for them

Spend time with and pay attention to my children

Educate my children in mind, body, and soul

Work to provide a stable family life for my children

Pray for and see God in my children and in all children

Vote for my children to ensure them fair opportunity

Speak out for my and other people's children's needs.

## Summer Camp Schedule

### **MORNING STAR**

April 17-19, 1998  
Teresa Ball  
919-524-4677  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530

### **JUNE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE**

June 8-13, 1998  
Teresa Ball  
919-524-4677  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530

### **MINISTER'S CONFERENCE**

June 15-18, 1998  
Doug Skinner  
919-596-2456  
817 Lynn Road  
Durham, NC 27703

### **CHRISTIAN CADET CONFERENCE**

June 22-27, 1998  
Gary Bailey  
919-735-3916  
112 Crosswinds Drive  
Goldsboro, NC 27530

### **YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (YFA)**

June 29-July 4, 1998  
Janie Sowers  
919-235-2408  
PO Box 824  
Middlesex, NC 27557  
Frankie Baggett, Co-Director  
919-746-7850

### **YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (AFC)**

July 6-11, 1998  
Frankie Baggett  
919-746-7850  
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Ayden, NC 28513

### **GENERAL YOUTH II CONFERENCE**

July 13-18, 1998  
Chris Singleton  
910-298-3520  
PO Box 162  
Beulaville, NC 28518

### **GENERAL YOUTH I CONFERENCE**

July 20-25, 1998  
Bryant Hines  
919-638-3436  
PO Box 266  
Cove City, NC 28523

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S BIBLE CONFERENCE**

July 27-August 1, 1998  
James Gurganus  
919-223-5251  
1317 Nine Foot Road  
Newport, NC 28570

### **AUGUST WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE**

August 3-8, 1998  
Teresa Ball  
919-524-4677  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530

*"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...He will teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths" (Isaiah 2:3, NIV).*

Each summer there are six youth conferences scheduled to accommodate ages that range from 9-18. These conferences all share common goals. (1) To proclaim the gospel to any young person who may not know Christ. (2) To teach the Word of God so that those who are already Christians may grow in their spiritual lives. (3) To show the youth of our day that recreation and times of fun do exist in the life of the Christian. Each day the young people who attend a conference are involved in Bible classes, recreation, and worship services. These are very basic but much needed attributes of the Christian's life. At home in their normal routine, sometimes young people forget to include these things in their lives. It is our fervent prayer that those attending a youth conference at Cragmont will be grounded in their faith, making them stronger Christians when they leave their mountaintop experiences.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Donald Coates -Chairman**  
**Gary Bailey - Vice-Chairman**  
**Grace Barbour - Secretary**  
**Mike Barnhill, Carol Davis**  
**Harry Grubbs, Nancy Hardee**  
**Sharlene Howell, Lloyd Jones**  
**Velma Morris, Jimmy Stocks**  
**Cheryl Williams**

## **Renovation Continues**

This is an exciting time to be at Cragmont. As I write this article renovation is going on in the main building. In 1996 the north end of the building and basement and public restrooms received the attention. The areas receiving treatment with this phase are as follows: (1) Air conditioning and new heat for the chapel. (2) Lobby and basement stairs. (3) Offices. (4) South end rooms, first and second floors.

**Air conditioning and heat for the chapel:** Cragmont staff and Cragmont board have been very aware of the discomfort campers have endured in our chapel during the hot weeks of summer. We are very excited that this

Cont. on next page



condition should be much improved this year with air conditioning. The central heat will be in the form of a gas pack allowing us to be rid of the inefficient heat of electric baseboard.

**Lobby and stairs:** The main building lobby is receiving a much needed "face lift" of new carpet and wall paper. The stairs from the second floor to the lobby and from the lobby to the basement have been replaced with wider stairs. We think this will be a great improvement.



*Old stairs being removed*

**Offices:** Cragmont offices will all be located on the south end of the first floor on the front side of the building. Some structural changes were made along with new carpet and wall paper.



*Old Office*

**Room treatment:** All rooms on the south end of the building, first and second floors, will have private bathrooms. On the second floor, four of the eight rooms will have a shower and the other four will have the tub/shower that was in the existing bathroom. On the first floor, there will be four rooms on the back of the building, two having a shower and the other two having the tub/shower.

## Cool Cash for a Cool Cragmont

**God is not short on money!** So much has been accomplished in the last several years. In 1990 the "Jubilee" campaign was launched in hope of ending the debt on the Main Building by 1995. It was accomplished! Plans were then begun to renovate the Main Building with private baths as the main feature. By the beginning of the 1996 camping season, the north end had been renovated. To do that job we borrowed \$100,000.00 through Church Finance Association. By the end of 1997, through designated pledges, we had paid the one hundred thousand dollar loan down to \$33,000.00. In September 1997 our Board of Directors directed us to have plans drawn for the next phase of the renovation. Now, as of this writing, those plans are under construction. The cost of this phase is \$168,000.00 for a new total indebtedness of approximately \$200,000.00.

Through the many years that the Free Will Baptist denomination has operated this camp and conference ministry, thousands of lives have been touched. We need the help of people who care about this ministry of Cragmont. God has the financial resources available to pay for this much needed renovation. You may be one of God's resources. The purpose of this article is to ask you again to contribute to a fund that will be used to pay for the renovation. The campaign is called "Cool cash for a cool Cragmont." Of course this is a play on the air conditioning for the chapel. We want to find 168 pledges of \$1000.00 each. Below you will find a commitment form with suggestions for your gift. If you are not able to give \$1000 then please check "other" on the form and give what you can.

### Cool Cash For A Cool Cragmont

1233 North Fork Road  
Black Mountain, NC 28711

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$50 quarterly      \_\_\_ \$100 semiannually

\_\_\_ \$200 per year      \_\_\_ \$1000 in full

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_



# *What Can You and Your Church Do to Help the Minister?*

*by Don Fader, Director*

Last month we talked about the historical perspective of minister's compensation and some of the factors that have molded the church's attitudes and present-day decisions regarding finances. The title of this month's article asks an open-ended question, and before we can even begin to look into the issues that surround the question, you must determine if you really want to help the pastor.

This may sound strange, but there are those individuals who have no interest in helping the pastor at all. For whatever reason, they don't care for him, his preaching, his visitation, his family, his demeanor or a whole list of real or imagined improprieties. These individuals feel that the pastor should meet their exclusive standards in order to serve. It makes no difference to them that a high percentage of members are satisfied with the present pastor, because if they are not happy with the situation, they will work against him till they get their way.

This selfish attitude can ruin a congregation's working relationship, and the bitterness that follows can stay with a church for years. Let's face it, we all cannot get our own way! Once you involve two or more people in a joint decision, the choice will involve a degree of compromise. A pastor is the epitome of compromise within the congregation. Age, experience, preaching style and education are several factors where a congregation needs to reach a compromise. While I do not suggest that anyone compromise their core values or beliefs. I submit that the reason most people are dissatisfied with their pastor is because of fringe issues, not doctrinal or spiritual concerns.

Hopefully, you are an individual that wants to help the minister and

even if you do not see eye-to-eye on every issue, you are able to find enough common ground on which to stand with him and move forward. The first real way that you can help your pastor is to pray for him daily. I know this article is supposed to be about finances, but Jesus taught us in Matthew 6:21: "...Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If our prayer life includes our pastor and our church, then it stands to reason that our finances will follow our heart.

If you pray for your pastor daily instead of always criticizing and fault-finding, you will look to help him achieve the goals and visions of your church. He may not be your idea of the perfect pastor, but you can change anyone by simply changing your attitude toward him. Your prayer life can't help but be manifested in your daily walk, and the discipline of prayer will help to awaken within you the power to be a positive influence in your church and community through Christ.

Each of us is aware that the Convention is suffering from a shortage of ministers who are willing and able to pastor in our churches. This is not to say that God has quit calling people into the ministry, but ask yourself, "If God were calling someone in our congregation into the ministry what would he see in our church that would make him respond to that call in a positive fashion?" Is the pastor treated with respect and courtesy? Is he appreciated by the membership and encouraged as he serves? Quite often the picture that many people see is one that is discouraging to an individual who is struggling with finding God's will in his life. Would you want your son or daughter to answer the call to full-time Christian service or would you rather they pursue another career path? Why? Can you honestly say that you treat your pastor in a manner that you yourself would like to be treated?

I do not want to minimize the real need for adequate compensation; but regardless of the salary, if the pastor is unable to work with the congregation in an atmosphere of mutual respect, appreciation and cooperation, then no amount of money will be satisfactory.

The church/pastor relationship is unique in that the pastor is hired not only as a leader of the congregation, but also as an employee. This makes for a delicate balance because on one hand, the church must be willing to subordinate itself to the guidance of the pastor and on the other hand they must also be forthright in communicating their goals and expectations. Conversely, the pastor must understand his role as a shepherd — not a cattle herder. He must gently lead the way for the flock and not try to drive them like cattle to market.

There is the risk that the pastor may assume a dictatorial role and feel he must initiate, approve, and direct every aspect of the church life. One person cannot control the direction of the congregation because eventually the church's program will grow stale and dry without the infusion of new life that comes from different sources. On the other hand, it is also true that the church can sometimes become disdainful and treat the pastor as their hired hand rather than a chosen leader. While tradition and heritage are important, we should not be locked into a program simply because "We have always done it this way!"

The challenge to each church and pastor is finding a balance between the two extremes described above. We all work better when we work together and if a church wants to help their pastor, the first step is to resolve to work along with him for the good of the Kingdom and the church. This is the foundation on which the church/pastor relationship is built.

*Next Month: Ideas that Work*



## Summer School

Summer school at Mount Olive College will be conducted in two sessions. Forty-one courses are being offered during Session A which begins on Monday, May 25, and runs until Friday, June 26. Fifteen courses are being offered during Session B which begins on Monday, June 29, and ends on Friday, July 31.

Summer school classes meet five days a week for one hour and fifty minutes. The cost is \$100 per semester hour, or \$300 for a 3-credit course. Room and board, which includes one meal per day, is \$425 for each five-week session.

For information about the specific courses being offered and to register, contact the Admissions Office at Mount Olive College by calling 919-658-2502 or 800-653-0854.

## Tennis Marathon Held March 27-28

A tennis marathon was held on March 27 and 28 to begin the process of raising funds for a new tennis facility at the College. Mount Olive has men's and women's tennis teams which compete in the Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference. However, the courts are in poor condition and are inadequate for intercollegiate competition. Home matches are played at other facilities in the area.

The idea of tennis coach Burt Lewis, he and local tennis pro Mitch Adler teamed to play tennis continuously for 18 hours over the two days. People pledged support based on the hours played. For their unwavering dedication and stiff muscles, the two collected approximately \$8,000 in gifts and pledges.

The marathon was held at the Goldsboro Country Club and supported by tennis team members, their parents, a few loyal tennis-playing alumni, and tennis enthusiasts from the area.

A single tennis court costs about \$30,000, and the College needs a six-court facility. It's a beginning! If you have an interest in helping with the College's tennis program, contact tennis coach Burt Lewis or Nancy Westfall, director of development services, both at 919-658-2502.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                            |                                            |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Saturday, May 9, 11:00 AM  | Graduation Worship Service, Rodgers Chapel |
| Saturday, May 9, 2:00 PM   | Graduation Exercises, College Hall         |
| Friday – Sunday, May 15–17 | FWB State Youth Convention                 |
| Monday, May 25, 8:00 AM    | Summer School, Session A begins            |

## Career Development & Advisement

On March 19, the College hosted a Job Fair in College Hall. Seventy-three area employers had representatives present to meet with graduating students and others looking for information on employment opportunities. Private businesses — large and small, municipal, county, and state agencies, and several graduate schools participated. Approximately 250 people took advantage of the opportunity.

C. H. Overman attended representing opportunities for employment and service to Free Will Baptist Press and the church.

On April 4, 61 high school students who will be new freshmen came to the College to sign-up for their 1998 fall term courses. Their parents also came and both groups were provided with additional information about making the successful transition from high school to college.

Ms. Linda Greenwood, director for advisement and career development, hosted both programs.

## Spring Sports Winding Down

With exams looming large and graduation coming soon after, spring sports teams at the College are winding down.

The women's softball team set a record for the most wins in a season with 32 at this point. As of press time, the Lady Trojans have a 32-15 record and are recognized as one of the better women's softball teams in the South Atlantic Region.

The men's baseball team finished third in the conference with a 14-7 conference record and a 24-19 overall record, with a few non-conference games still to play. The team struggled at first but finished very respectably.

Men's tennis has a 4-13 record and is ranked 8th in the conference tournament and the women are 5-11 going into the conference tournament ranked 7th. The records belie a tennis program that is building. We are optimistic for the future of tennis at Mount Olive College. The College has good student talent, an excellent coach, and increasing interest in the tennis program.

The golf team finished fourth and third in its last two team outings. Sophomore Caine Davenport, a sophomore from Goldsboro, raised some eyebrows winning the Lacey Gane Invitational hosted by UNC-Pembroke at Pinecrest Country Club. Individual talent abounds; getting them all to play well on the same day is the challenge.

## The Edward W. and Bessie F. Miles Endowed Fund for Ministerial Scholarship by W. Burkette Raper

"I am indebted to Mount Olive College and others who offered me assistance and encouragement while pursuing my ministerial education. Without them, the road I traveled may have been different or at least more difficult. This scholarship is my attempt to repay that debt. My wife and I would like to help ease the financial burden for someone who is dedicating his life's work to Christ."

With these words, the Rev. Edward W. Miles, an alumnus of Mount Olive College, and his wife, Bessie, have established an endowed fund that will provide scholarships for future ministerial students. According to Dr. W. Burkette Raper, Director of Planned

Giving, the Endowment will be funded through a Charitable Remainder Unitrust which the Rev. and Mrs. Miles recently established at the College.

Prior to enrolling at Mount Olive College in the fall of 1956, Mr. Miles was Superintendent of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Turbeville, SC. Following his call to the Christian ministry, Mr. and Mrs. Miles moved their family of three young children (Wendy, Gail and Mitchell) to Mount Olive. In addition to being a student, Mr. Miles found part-time employment with a local

business as a means for supporting his family.

The following year, he was ordained by his home church, Horse Branch Free Will Baptist, in South Carolina, and thereafter he began the pastorate of area churches. Mr. Miles notes that with employment and services to churches it took him nine years to earn his Associate in Arts degree. During this period of time, as his employment and pastoral duties permitted, he also enrolled at Barton College where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1965, the same year as his graduation from Mount Olive College. He also served as Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings at Mount Olive College during the construction of the first buildings on the current campus. Following his employment at Mount Olive College, Mr. Miles taught at Southern Wayne High School and later served as Director of the Adult Vocational Department at Wayne Community College, Goldsboro.

Churches which Mr. Miles has served include Long Ridge, Mount Olive; May's Chapel, Dudley; Northeast, Mount Olive; Casey's Chapel, Goldsboro; St. Paul, Newton Grove; Spring Branch, Walstonburg; Friendship, Middlesex; Mount Tabor, Creswell; and Christian Chapel, Pink Hill. Other church work has included missionary services in the Philippines and membership on the Cape Fear and Central Conference Board of Ordination.

Now retired, Mr. and Mrs. Miles reside at 376 Church of God Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534.



Edward W. and Bessie F. Miles

## Singers Celebrate 25th Anniversary

The Mount Olive College Singers celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary at its annual Spring Fling on April 16. This year's performance, titled "Magical Moments," included former singers who performed with the current group of singers. The shows featured Broadway favorites, songs from the '50s and '60s, a barber shop quartet, and music from Disney movies.

Mrs. Irene Patten, associate professor of music, has directed the College's high profile performing troupe for all of its 25 years. And she says that she has no intention of slowing down.

The performance was preceded by a display of costumes, photos, and videos spanning 25 years and live music provided by an anniversary alumni trio.





# May



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| SUN                    | MON                                                                                                                | TUE                                  |    |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|
| 26                     | 27                                                                                                                 | 28                                   | 29 |
| 3                      | 4                                                                                                                  | 5                                    | 6  |
| Philippines Short...   |                                                                                                                    |                                      |    |
| 10                     | 11                                                                                                                 | 12<br>Foreign Missions Board Meeting | 14 |
| Mother's Day           |                                                                                                                    |                                      |    |
| 17                     | 18                                                                                                                 | 19<br>FWB Press Board Meeting        | 20 |
| Children's Home Day    |                                                                                                                    |                                      |    |
| State Youth Convention |                                                                                                                    |                                      |    |
| 24                     | 25                                                                                                                 | 26                                   | 27 |
| 31                     | Headquarters Closed<br>FWB Press Closed<br>Bookstores Open<br>MOC Summer Session A Begins<br>Memorial Day Observed |                                      |    |
| MOC Scholarship Day    |                                                                                                                    |                                      |    |

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| THU |                                                                                                                             | FRI                                  |  | SAT       |                                                                                                                             |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | <b>30</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>1</b>                             |  | <b>2</b>  | Layman's League<br>Free Union, Walstonburg<br>7:00 PM                                                                       |
|     |                                                                                                                             | Philippines Short-Term Missions Team |  |           |                                                                                                                             |
|     | <b>7</b><br>Layman's League<br>Executive Board Meeting,<br>VFW Building, Snow Hill<br>7:30 PM<br><br>National Day of Prayer | <b>8</b>                             |  | <b>9</b>  | MOC Graduation<br>and Board of Trustees Meeting                                                                             |
|     | <b>14</b><br>State Woman's<br>Auxiliary Convention                                                                          | <b>15</b>                            |  | <b>16</b> | State League Convention<br><br>Air Force Day                                                                                |
|     |                                                                                                                             | State Youth Convention               |  |           |                                                                                                                             |
|     | <b>21</b><br>Children's Home Board Meeting                                                                                  | <b>22</b>                            |  | <b>23</b> | First Children Admitted<br>Children's Home<br><br>Layman's League Singspiration,<br>Harrell's Chapel, Snow Hill,<br>6:00 PM |
|     | <b>28</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>29</b>                            |  | <b>30</b> | Memorial Day                                                                                                                |

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



## Prayer for Revival

Frank R. Harrison,  
Campus Minister,  
Mount Olive  
College

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

"If there isn't a revival in this country of some sort we're moving toward a state that would be very much like pagan Rome." (John Whitehead founder of the Rutherford Institute).

No great move of God to bring revival has ever come about without paving the road first with soul-searching agonizing prayer of confession and repentance. This kind of prayer arises out of a deep hunger and desperate heart hunger that moves God to the scene of His people and will repeat again and again His gracious acts of divine visitation, bringing biblical revival to His people and empowering them to be the church victorious under the leadership and authority of the Holy Spirit.

Revival is always the act of a loving and gracious God who comes anew to the scene of His people who are ready and prepared for His divine presence and visitation. They are the sovereign working of God in response to a praying, obedient, repentant people who seek His face and His will alone. "From one viewpoint, revival is the manifestation of God to His people, convicting by His awesome presence and by His infinite holiness. From another viewpoint, revival is God holding out His arms of love to us and refusing to give up on us. Again and again during the Old Testament period God held out His arms to Israel through prophets, righteous kings, or leaders whom He raised up to call Israel back to Himself. The greatest revival visitation in history was Jesus: 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son.'" (Wesley L. Duewel: *Revival Fire*).

Indeed, the Church was born in revival fire on Pentecost as the Holy Spirit filled the disciples and empowered them as His witnesses to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. So empowered and obedient, those who had been laggards and cowards now were accused of "turning the world upside down!" Thus, it is the nature of the church to

experience revival through the Holy Spirit.

That great preacher and writer of time past, E.M. Bounds states: "Revivals are among the charter rights of the church. They are the evidences of its divinity, the tokens of God's presence, the witness of His power. The frequency and power of these extraordinary seasons of grace are the tests and preserves of the vital force in the church. The church that is not visited by these seasons is as sterile in all spiritual products as a desert and cannot meet the designs of God's church. Such churches may have all the show and parade of life, but it is only a painted life" (*Prayer and Revival*).

Dear reader, how long before God comes again to His people to revive them that they may rejoice in Him and go forward to the great harvest of souls, for truly the fields are white unto harvest! Indeed, the world lies bleeding at our feet, ravaged by war, poverty, famine, materialism, humanism, and gutter morality that is being piped into the homes of America! Either we have revival in the biblical definition and proportion, or America will continue to be filled with violence, cult worship, and secularism that threatens to overwhelm even the church. Revival is always the empowering of the church for evangelism and the proclamation of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The words of the English evangelist Leonard Ravenhill comes to us with evangelical intensity "The New Testament Church was not electronic, it was electrifying. The church fresh from the Upper Room invaded the world: now the church in the supper room is invaded by the world. The New Testament Church did not depend on a moral majority, but rather on the holy minority. The church right now has more fashion than passion, is more pathetic than prophetic, is more superficial than supernatural.... The New Testament Church was identified with persecutions, prisons, and poverty; today many of us are identified with prosperity, popularity, and personalities. We lack apostolic power because we lack apostolic piety, and we lack apostolic piety because we lack apostolic purity!"

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*Revival is always the act of a loving and gracious God who comes anew to the scene of His people who are ready and prepared for His divine presence and visitation. They are the sovereign working of God in response to a praying, obedient, repentant people who seek His face and His will alone.*

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## SPECIAL NOTICE: SHORT-TERM TEAM (SERVE THEM TEAMS) OPPORTUNITIES 1999

Dear reader, we need revival — biblical revival — Spirit-born, heaven-directed revival if the church today is to win the victory over the powers of darkness. That revival will come only through prayer that searches the deepest places of our souls and brings us to deep confession before our Lord.

All across America and around the world thousands upon thousands and thousands of Christians are uniting in prayer for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the people of God for the purposes of God in Christ Jesus. Not since the day of Pentecost has there been such hunger of heart for a divine visitation and a renewal of God's people.

Perceptive leaders are calling God's people to unite in prayer. Dr. Paul Cedar, Chairman of Mission America; Dr. Bill Bright, Campus Crusade; Dr. Neil T. Anderson, Dr. Elmer L. Towns, authors of *Rivers of Revival* (Regal, 1997) and thousands of others are uniting in prayer for revival.

Let us all join forces with "Mission America" to promote the ministries of prayer for revival and spiritual awakening in our nation that increased thousands of men and women will be mobilized and empowered by the Holy Spirit to go to the ends of the earth to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.

### Recommended Reading:

*Rivers of Revival* by  
Dr. Neil T. Anderson  
Dr. Elmer L. Towns  
(Regal, 1997)

*Prayer and Revival* by  
E. M. Bounds  
(Bake Books, 1993)

*With Christ in the School of Prayer* by  
Andrew Murray (Billy Graham  
Evangelistic Association)

Now is the time to consider joining a Short-Term Team in 1999. Pray first and seek God's will in this matter. If He directs you to go, contact the Board of Foreign Missions and make a firm commitment. There will be four team opportunities in 1999.

**PHILIPPINES:** This team will depart on April 17 and return on May 2, 1999. We need at least two people on this team who have skills in carpentry and masonry who would be responsible for directing the other team members in construction of either a parsonage or a church building.

We also need those interested in youth work, VBS, sports, music, preaching, personal evangelism and other gifts that you can use in ministry. We can only take 15 people on this team. The team is open to those 18 years old and up. The cost is approximately \*\$1,500 plus food per person \*(could change depending on the cost of the airline ticket).

**MEXICO:** The **first team** will work in Mexico from June 12–22, 1999. We need some people with skills in carpentry and masonry to join these teams. This first team is responsible for the major construction part of the building. Team members not involved in construction will conduct VBS, prayer walks, skits, puppets, etc. Team members must be 13 years old and up. The cost is \$350 plus airfare and food per person.

The **second team** will work in Mexico from July 10–20, 1999. This team will finish the building and be involved in various other ministries.

**We can only take thirty people per team to Mexico in June and July.**

The **third team** will be involved in a Youth Camp in Morelos, Mexico from August 14–24, 1999. This team will consist of fifteen members and you must be 16 years old and up.

**CALLING DOCTORS AND DENTISTS:** We could use doctors and dentists on our Short-Term Teams who would be willing to give their services to minister to the people on our mission fields.

If you are interested in any of these teams, act now! For more information and an application call or write our office today.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** A one-day orientation session is required for those who sign up to join a Short-Term Team.

## MISSIONARIES RETURN TO THE FIELD

Willem and Lydia van der Plas will depart from Raleigh/Durham Airport on May 4 at 1:45 PM, American Airlines Flight #4829. If you would like to see them off, please be at the airport by 12 noon. Pray for safety in travel and for the pending back surgery that Willem will require in June or July. We will keep you informed.



## Praying for the Nations of the World

by Harold Jones

"PRAY FOR THEM" (Nations of the World) is an exciting way for every person and church to be involved in reaching the world with the Gospel and empowering our workers on the various fields through prayer. Prayer is front line missions work and is absolutely essential if the work is going to prosper and grow. "PRAYER GIVES POWER TO MISSIONS." There are 237 countries and territories around the world; 96% of the world's population lives beyond our borders. We are living in a world far from being evangelized. It is time for the Church to commit its prayers and resources to reach the nations of the world with the Gospel.

### THE WORLD TO BE REACHED LOOKS LIKE THIS:

|                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 237 countries and territories        | Population about 6 billion         |
| 6,528 languages                      | 4,564 languages without Scriptures |
| Non-religious 18.3%                  | Muslims 19.6%                      |
| Hindu 13.5%                          | Buddhist/Eastern religions 11.6%   |
| Protestants 10.3%                    | Roman Catholic 16.8%               |
| Other Christians/Orthodox, etc. 5.7% |                                    |
|                                      | Cults, etc. 4.2%                   |

We must be intercessors for the nations of the world. Our prayers change the world, open closed doors, make resistant people receptive, put down and raise up leaders and extends the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Board of Foreign Missions has an inflatable globe that we will give to any church, auxiliary, Sunday school class, youth or men's group, etc., that is willing to use it as a means and reminder to pray for the nations. Instructions are attached to each globe, describing how to use it for a deeper life of intercession. Contact our office to receive yours (919-746-4963). It is also recommended that you purchase the book, *Operation World* and use it to aid you in PRAYING FOR THEM — THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD

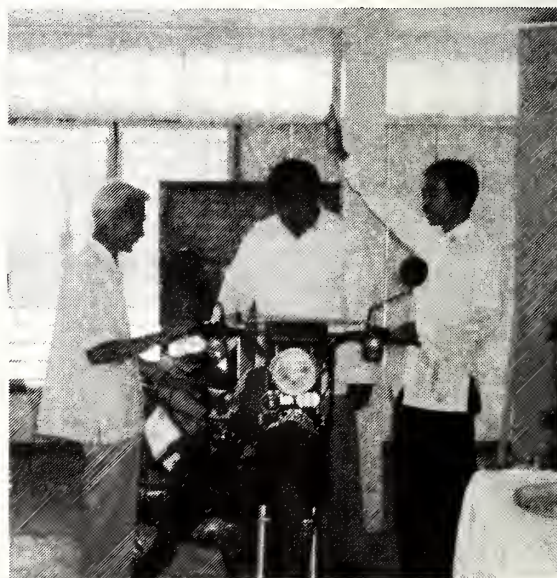


"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations" Psalm 67:1-2.

## "Proving God's Faithfulness"

by Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr.

"I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications" (Psalm 116:1). I am convinced that God has intended prayer to be as simple and natural and as constant a part of our spiritual lives as the relationship between a child and his parent in the home. As a large part of that relationship between child and parent is simply asking and receiving, just so it with us and our heavenly parent. Perhaps however, the most blessed element in this asking and getting from God lies in the strengthening of faith which comes when a definite request has been granted. As I have recalled almost three months under prayer, to have a motorcycle service in the administration office, I believe God answers prayer! I know God answers prayer! His word in Isaiah 65:24 is God's wonderful promise: "...Before the call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." First, I personally praise and thank God for answering my prayer; second, to our beloved missionary the Rev. Harold Jones, for God's using him as a channel of blessing; third, to all our brethren in North Carolina for continuing support for this special project. The said motorcycle was purchased February 21, 1998, and was dedicated to our Lord March 8, 1998. The dedication service was led by the Rev. Darie S. Basingil, Mission Director of the Free Will Baptist College, Philippines. Please pray for me as I drive this motorcycle safely through the guidance of our loving Lord Almighty.





## News From The TayTay Free Will Baptist Church, Philippines

by Rev. Pio dela Rosa

In Luke 14:23 we find these words, "And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." Our church has adopted this command and our church is filled to overflowing with worshippers. I recall the history of Nehemiah as he rebuilt the walls of the temple, but we have a different reason for breaking down the walls; we need more space. I pray that funds will soon be available for this project. Please continue to pray for our church.



### Baptism in TayTay

On February 1, 1998, the Rev. Dario Basingil baptized nine people at TayTay Beach. This was a great victory. Two of the atheism leaders were won to the Lord. The confessed publicly, and in obedience to the Lord's command were baptized. Today is the day of harvest time. We pray for more laborers in His vineyard to harvest the ripe fields.



*Baptism at TayTay, pictured left.*

### The New North District Officers

The North District Conference was held at San Jose, Dumarán, Palawan. The theme of this Conference was "Now Is the Day of Salvation." The Oath-Taking Ceremony for the new officers was held during the Conference. This meeting ended with a challenge from the Rev. Dario Basingil. He stated that the Message of God must not be delayed, the end is near. All participants returned to their assignment with joy and enthusiasm.

*New North District Officers pictured right*





## Twenty-Second Anniversary

### Templo Tabernaculo Free Will Baptist Church Acuna Mexico

On November 30, the Tabernacle Church celebrated its twenty-second year of ministry with great joy and thanksgiving to the Lord for all these years of spiritual work! The church began its ministry in 1975 by preaching on the streets of this neighborhood. As the results of this great endeavor and the preaching of the Rev. Toribio Lugo and his family, many of the people who heard the Word were converted unto the Lord Jesus and were quickly formed into a new congregation. Soon after the small congregation began to construct a temple named "El Tabernaculo" (The Tabernacle). Their vision was to continue to grow. As the congregation grew, they also enlarged the church by constructing a second floor area and using it as the place of worship.

The Free Will Baptist ministers and various of their church members were present at this church ceremony. They came to celebrate and to congratulate their brothers and sisters for their many years of faithful work and rejoiced together with them. Nineteen ninety-seven was the year of victory and triumph for all of them.

The pastor's wife, Mrs. Hernestina Lugo expressed the sentiment of her family when she declared, "We give thanks to God for these 22 years of work in the vineyard of our Lord. We feel tired, we feel ill and the years have taken away our physical strength, but our faith and love for the work of God continues as strong as in the beginning. Even at our 75 years of age, we want the Lord to continue to use our lives and make His kingdom grow."

Continue to pray for these two servants of God and their work in Mexico.



*The Rev. and Mrs. Lugo pictured above.*



*El Tabernaculo pictured left.*

## & EVANGELISM

### Mission America: A Leadership Model of Cooperation, Collaboration and Strategic Alliances

Mission America, many believe, is a meeting that turned into a movement. From its international roots at a 1974 meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, the U.S. expression of the "Spirit of Lausanne" now includes 277 Christian leaders, 62 denominations, and 150 servant ministries — representing more than 170,000 U.S. congregations.

Paul Cedar, chairman of Mission America, said it simply. "Let's not do it the American way, let's do it the Jesus way."

That was in 1991. Last month in St. Louis, another remarkable meeting of the Mission America National Committee took place and seemed to indicate that God is orchestrating unusual cooperation and collaboration among denominations and Christian organizations.

Mission America is hardly the textbook case on leadership and management. It's low-key. While it exists primarily to encourage cooperative prayer and evangelism initiatives, it's difficult to describe to the donor in the pew. But it has one thing clear, according to Paul Cedar, "God is the leader."

"We're not trying to create the wave," he says, "we're trying to ride the wave of what God is doing."

The movement was born out of the 1974 international conference on evangelism in Lausanne, Switzerland. Following Lausanne II in Manila in 1989, where Christian leaders from 150 nations gathered, each country was commissioned to follow through on the "spirit of Lausanne" in their own way in their own country.

After numerous meetings of the U.S. Lausanne Committee, and capturing the urgency of the AD2000 & Beyond movement, Mission America was launched and Paul Cedar, most recently president of the Evangelical Free Church of America, was invited to be chairman.



## Mission America...

Believing that the Lord is calling ministries to work together, Mission America has organized loosely to encourage broad participation.

The national committee of over 300 leaders meets just once a year. The 24-person honorary advisory committee has all the right names: Vonette Bright, Briscoe, Colson, Shirley Dobson, Engstrom, Ford, Hayford, Lucado, Maxwell, McCartney, Ogilvie, Palau, Seiple, and Wang (to name a few).

The 22 person facilitation committee (the workers) is no less impressive: Don Argue, Robert Coleman, Stephen Douglass, Paul McKaughan, Bishop George McKinney, Jesse Miranda, Randy Phillips, Thomas Trask, and Rick Warren (to name a few more).

The honorary chairpersons are Bill Bright, Billy Graham, and John Perkins.

Everyone else is on the general committee. And it's remarkable to see who sits on the sidelines most of the time — just showing up to be part of what God is doing — not needing or expecting platform time. Active listeners include folks like Henry Blackaby, Gene Habecker, and many, many more.

With a mission of "the whole church taking the whole Gospel to the whole nation in this generation — and to the world," it's easy to affirm the need to work together.

The Mission America staff and working committees have identified 216 ADIs (what the media calls areas of dominant influence) and hopes to target the U.S. with the Gospel by the end of the year 2000. The primary strategy to be used by many is the Celebrate Jesus 2000 campaign.

*Used by permission, John Pearson, Executive Director of the Christian Management Association.*

## What's Happening?

On March 3, 1998, the Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists along with the Executive Committee of each Conference and the Chairman of Project Solution, were invited to a meeting for explanation and information, how we as Original Free Will Baptists can be involved in CELEBRATE JESUS 2000 and how our churches would benefit from it.

The Rev. David C. Hansley, a member of the National Committee of "Mission America," shared with those present and challenged us to participate. He brought to our attention that our five-year theme and the mission statement adopted by our Convention related very much to this national endeavor of reaching every home in America by the year end of 2000.

The Project Solution Committee has, in a recent meeting, endorsed Celebrate Jesus 2000, and encouraged our pastors and churches to get involved. Several of our Conferences have already endorsed this project and will be having area meetings.



Celebrate Jesus 2000

### Eastern Conference

There will be a meeting of the Churches of the Eastern Conference within the bounds of each Union Meeting District.

Carteret — 7:30 PM, Monday, May 4  
Beaufort Original Free Will Baptist Church  
524 W. Beaufort Road, Beaufort, NC

3rd Union — 7:30 PM, Tuesday, May 5  
Beulaville Church, Beulaville, NC

5th Union — 7:30 PM, Thursday, May 7  
Saint's Delight Church, Bridgeton, NC

### Albemarle Conference

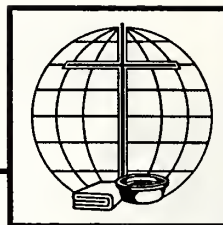
7:30 PM, Friday, May 8, Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC

### Cape Fear Conference

9:30 AM, Saturday, May 30, St. Paul Church, Newton Grove, NC

Other Celebrate Jesus 2000 meetings are being planned throughout our Conferences. Your church will not want to miss the greatest opportunity to learn how to reach your community for Christ. Make plans to attend the meeting when held in your area.





## ***Report from Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church***

submitted by Rita Otto Jones

We were very proud of our youngest members in March. Powhatan's Youth Group had 11 entries in the March 7, 1998, competition at Tee's Chapel — 9 brought back ribbons. A special thank you to the Rev. and Mrs. Bogle for the cake and ice cream party following the Youth performance at Powhatan on March 8. The Youth's hot dog supper and gospel singing fundraiser on March 21 was a big success and money raised will help cover the cost for those who hope to attend camp this summer. Thank you to the leaders and coaches who worked with the Youth in these events and to all church members who supported them.

The Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a Study Course on March 15 with speaker Susie Stevenson (wife of the Rev. Jerry Stevenson). Sandra Peedin, Auxiliary President, introduced the former Powhatan member. Mrs. Stevenson spoke on "Love" — human love and divine love. What a great love God has for us to allow His son to suffer at Calvary! We should show love to one another to reflect God's love.

Happy birthday to Mrs. Leona Cook who turned 94 on March 15.

Johnston, our home county, celebrated "Heritage Day" on March 27. Powhatan Church has been spreading God's word in the county since 1888. A brief history of Powhatan is contained in a book at the newly established Heritage Center (formerly the First Citizens Bank Building in downtown Smithfield), along with the histories of all county churches.

The Relay for Life Cancer Walk-a-thon will take place at Johnston Community College on June 12-13. Powhatan asks everyone to support this worthy cause. Continue to remember Vicky Bagley in her cancer fight. Also, we ask that you pray for the family of Bobby Bass, a member who lost his struggle with cancer on March 15.

## ***Homecoming Announcement***

submitted by Virginia Flora

Grants Chapel Free Will Baptist Church of Wayne County, four miles west of Seven Springs, will celebrate it's annual Homecoming, May 3, 1998.

Sunday School — 10:00 AM

Morning Worship — 11:00 AM

Guest Speaker will be Dr. Burkette Raper.

Special singing after lunch with special singers and local choirs.

The Church and Pastor, the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow, extend an invitation to attend.

***Tired?  
Down in the dumps?  
Blue?  
Need a lift?***

## **The Free Will Baptist League Convention has the prescription for you.**

Take the FWB League Convention twice on Saturday,  
May 16, 1998 at 11:00 AM and 12:45 PM.

Apply the music, praise, and worship of the  
League to your troubled, tired spirits.

Prescription available at Rodgers Chapel,  
Mount Olive College

and

For those in need of a spoonful of excitement  
We have the Sword Drill!

(There has been a change in the administration of this part of the League's soul medication. Each church that registers with the convention with \$25 can represent in the Sword Drill with any number of participants in the Junior [ages 9-11] and Intermediate [ages 12-15] levels.)

## Ladies Day at Hickory Chapel

submitted by Marilyn Carter

Hickory Chapel Free Will Baptist Church held its 1st "Ladies Day Service" on March 8, 1998. The program was planned by Becky Jo Sumner.

We "Prepared Our Minds" with Phyllis Hoggard at the piano. We "Prepared Our Lives" with Sara Parker giving a warm welcome and making the announcements. We "Prepared Our Hearts" with Libby Taylor at the organ.

The "Call to Worship" was presented by Clair Taylor with a song. The opening prayer was given by Faye Sumner. Cindy Burgess was our worship leader and led the congregation in singing "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling." We worshipped through the Word with Becky Sumner and Sandy White reading from Psalm 8:1-9; Revelation 4:11.

As we all worshipped through prayer, Libby Taylor presented us with special music. Our pastor, the Rev. Robert May delivered the message, taken from Acts 16, the story of Lydia. The choir was made up of our AFC and YFA girls, and they shared special "Praise" music with us.

The offering prayer was given by Edith Bess. Our ushers for the day were: Jo Anne Slaughter, Jennifer Clinton, Marie Taylor, and Lorraine Harrell. Fran Overton sang special music during the offering.

At the ending of the service, Becky Jo Sumner offered special prayer for the shut-ins and sick of our church and community.

Cindy Burgess gave an invitation and the congregation sang the song "Ready." She then closed service with prayer. After the service, everyone enjoyed dinner in the fellowship hall.

Anne Dilday and Sandy White decorated the church and fellowship hall beautifully to make the day truly special. We are hoping this is just the beginning of a yearly event in our church.

## People & Events

### Youth Talent Competition Held

submitted by Helen Smith

Membership of Smyrna, Cape Fear Conference, is "bursting at the seams" over its youth participation in the recent youth talent competition held at Tee's Chapel.

Nine youth participated in the talent competition — all nine placed in the competition.

Participating were:

Armatha Noles: Christian writing in AFC — 2nd place

Ashley Parker: Craft in YFA — 1st place

Laura Parker: Craft in AFC — 2nd place

Daniel Wood: Drawing in AFC — 2nd place

Billy Seymour: Public Speaking in YFA — 2nd place

Carla Allen: Christian Writing in YFA — 2nd place

Amanda Johnson: Vocal in AFC — 3rd place

Brian Lesis: Vocal in YFA — 2nd place

Pat Noles: Pencil drawing in YFA — 1st place

### Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Beddard, Jr. Recognition Day

Sunday, March 29, 1998, was Recognition Day for Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Beddard, Jr. at Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Beddard have served the church for over fifty years.

The honorees were presented red rose corsages from the church and yellow mums were placed in the church in their honor.

The deacons presented gift certificates from Bojangles, their favorite Sunday restaurant. A plaque was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Beddard by the Rev. Frankie Baggett from the church for their fifty plus years of service and dedication.

Mr. Beddard served as superintendent for many years, a deacon and many other offices. At present he is president of Adult III Sunday school class and president of the Layman's League.

Mrs. Beddard has taught all the Sunday school classes and is presently teaching Adult III and is president of the Ladies Auxiliary. She has played the piano and organ since she and Mr. Beddard were married.

Special music was presented by the choir, Wendy Evans and the Rev. Frankie Baggett.

Mr. and Mrs. Beddard's children and many of their family members were in attendance. After the service a dinner was given in their honor in the Fellowship Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Beddard pictured right.





# North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

*Seventy-First Annual Session*

**May 14, 1998**

*Hosted by*

*Piedmont District Woman's Auxiliary Convention*

*East Rockingham Free Will Baptist Church, Rockingham, North Carolina*

**Theme: "Work for the Night is Coming"**

**Scripture: "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" John 9:4.**

9:15 AM Registration Joan Little

9:30 AM Call to Worship

Women in the Church

God of Love: You chose the woman Mary to bring Your Son to the world, and on Easter Day sent women from His empty tomb with news of resurrection. Show us the special work You have for us. Give us a desire to follow worthy women who, in every age, brought life to earth, spread Your Word, and witnessed to the risen power of Jesus Christ, a woman's child, who is now the Lord of all. Amen.

Choral Call to Worship

Mount Olive College Fellowship Ensemble

9:45 AM Convention Hymn "Work for the Night is Coming"

Carolyn Jernigan

Devotions Linda Bryan

Meditation Flute and Piano Duet Julie Wetherington  
Michelle Wooten

*Go labor on; spend and be spent, Thy joy to do the Father's will.  
It is the way the Master went; Should not the servant tread it still?*

*Go, labor on while it is day; The world's dark night is hastening on.*

*Speed, speed thy work; cast sloth a way; it is not thus that souls are won.*

*Toil on! Faint not! Keep watch, and pray! Be wise the erring soul to win!*

*Go forth into the world's highway! Compel the wanderer to come in!*

10:10 AM Convention Prayer Cathy Creech

Welcome Debbie Motsinger

Response Cynthia Mills

Announcements Jean Brown

10:25 AM President's Address Mrs. Jernigan

Business Session

Convention Offering

Offertory Prayer Deborah King

The Offertory Mrs. Jean Wise

The Response

"Work While It is Today"

*Work While It is Today, This was our Master's rule;  
With docile minds let us obey, As Learners in His school  
To work the work of God Was His divine employ;  
And we must tread the path He trod or enter not His joy.  
For Thee our all to spend Still may we watch and pray;  
And, persevering to the end, Work while it is today.*

10:50 AM Life Membership Award Clara Patrick

10:55 AM Break

11:05 AM Cragmont Choir Alma Dale Cox

11:10 AM Auxiliary Theme Song "In the Service of the King"

Marie Glenn

Hymn of Challenge "To the Work"

Introduction of Speaker Sara W. Parker

Songs of Worship Mount Olive College Fellowship Ensemble

The Message Becky Jo Sumner

Hymn of Service "All For Jesus"

12:10 PM Denominational Ministries "People to People"

Mrs. Little

Report of Convention Committees

Installation of Officers May Pittman

Hymn of Commitment "His Way With Thee"

Benediction and Blessing Hazel Brown

Music Director Dianne B. Riley

Pianist Jean Wise

Ushers Deborah King, Angela Honeycutt, Angie Piner,

Gina Tripp, Tina Wetherington

Special Guests The Mount Olive College Fellowship Ensemble

Fellowship Ensemble

## 1996-1998 Convention Officers

President, Carolyn Jernigan, Cape Fear; Vice President, Joan Little, Central; Secretary, Sandra Jones, Central; Corresponding Secretary, Ruth Warrick, Cape Fear; Treasurer, Nadine Crocker, Western; Christian Education, Dianne Riley, Eastern; Missions Chairman, Deborah King, Western; Youth Chairman, Martha Parsons, Cape Fear; Life Membership, Nadine Crocker, Western; Study Course, Teresa Ball, Central; Program-Prayer, Happy Taylor, Eastern; Benevolence, Clara Patrick, Central; Field Secretary, Jean Ackiss, Western; Literature, Rose Williams, Western; Devotion Compiling Editor, Nina Grace Register, Eastern.

### Attention: All Cragmont Choir Members

The Cragmont Choir will render special music at the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists at East Rockingham Church in the Piedmont District on May 14, 1998. Alma Dale Cox will be directing the group. If you sang in this choir at Cragmont, rejoin your friends on this special day.

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### Directions to East Rockingham Free Will Baptist Church, Rockingham, NC

When traveling from the east go to Lumberton and take Interstate 95 South.

Just south of Lumberton turn right on Highway 74 and go to Rockingham. At Rockingham turn left on Highway 1 South. Go a couple of blocks on Highway 1 South and turn left at the Economy Motel. This will be a couple of blocks from Highway 74.

East Rockingham Church will be on the left on this road about 1/2 mile from Highway 1.

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### Announcement

The Eastern Conference Layman's League will meet at Cabin Free Will Baptist Church near Beulaville, NC, on Monday, May 18, 1998. Meal and fellowship time begins at 7:00 PM. Business meeting and worship service begins at 7:45 PM.

### Second Union Meeting

The Second Union Sunday School Convention of the Central Conference will meet on Sunday, May 31, 1998, at Black Jack Free Will Baptist Church at 3:00 PM.

Plan to Attend the  
Youth Convention  
of  
Original Free Will  
Baptists

May 15-17, 1998

Mount Olive College  
Mount Olive, NC

## ----- REGISTRATION FORM ----- CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCES

June 8-13, 1998

SPEAKER: JOYCE EDMUNDSON

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Which Conference Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

August 3-8, 1998

SPEAKER: BECKY JO SUMNER

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:

Teresa M. Ball

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$120.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip is being planned to the Knoxville Riverboat Dinner Cruise \$65.00, and there will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville (\$5.00 each). Please make your plans now to join us for one or both of these conferences.

**Remember:** The June Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies. A limited number of private accommodations for couples are available on a first registered, first served basis.



## Pastor Available

The Rev. Clifford B. Harwood is available for Supply or Bi-vocational pastorate.

Rev. Clifford B. Harwood  
919-242-6218

The Rev. A. B. Bryan, of Wayne County, is available for Pastoral or Supply Work. He is a member, in good standing of the Eastern Conference.

Rev. A. B. Byran  
919-736-8996

231 Five Points Rd, Dudley, NC. 28333

The Rev. Richard Glosson is available for full-time pastoral work or as a supply pastor.

Rev. Richard Glosson  
919-566-3424

606 S. Caswell St., LaGrange, NC

The Rev. C. T. Tucker of Johnston County is available for Pastoral or Supply Work. He is a member, in good standing of the Western Conference.

Rev. C. T. Tucker  
701 Holding St., Clayton, NC 27520  
919-550-9326

The Rev. Dan Jordan is available for full-time or part-time pastoral work.

Rev. Dan Jordan  
104 N. Boulevard, Clinton, NC 28328  
910-529-0201

The Rev. James Warren is available for pastoral supply or fill-in work. He is a member and in good standing with the Eastern Conference.

Rev. James Warren  
649 Poplar St., Kinston, NC 28504  
919-527-1648

## Pastor Needed

Bi-Vocational Pastor is needed for Russell Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, Carteret County, NC.

Please contact:

Mrs. Leona T. Ingram  
269 Ingram Road, Beaufort, NC 28516  
(252) 728-3087

or

Mrs. Esther S. Merrell  
PO Box 1178, Beaufort, NC 28516  
(252) 728-2310

The Oriental Original Free Will Baptist Church, Oriental, NC, is seeking a pastor. Consideration will be given to full time or bi-vocational applicants.

For more information contact:  
Charles Mason, 919-249-1751  
or  
Mike Styron, 919-249-1786

## Director of Youth Ministries Needed

Saint Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, in New Bern, NC, is looking for an enthusiastic person for the full-time position of Director of Youth Ministries. Duties also include helping to coordinate programs and ministries for all ages in the church. If you are interested, please send your resume to:

Saint Mary's  
Free Will Baptist Church  
Post Office Box 1367

New Bern, North Carolina 28563

Attention: Director of Youth Ministries Committee

For more information you may contact Craig Simmons at 919-637-3485.

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# THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens*



"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me," (1 Corthinthians 13:11, NIV).

## What Senior Citizens Desire Most

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

As we mature, our needs and priorities change. I remember hearing a noted author describe his life growing up in the Great Depression on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He recalled that one of the days he most looked forward to was when the mailman delivered the Sears Roebuck catalog. He said he could sit for hours looking through it and that on almost every page was something he would like to have. "Now," he reflected, "there is not a thing in it I want."

What do senior citizens desire most? I invite you to join with me in this quest.

## Good Health

As I think of my senior citizens friends, one of their primary desires is good health. I have never forgotten the words of Mrs. Nan H. Jones of Hull Road Church where I was pastor during my mid twenties. "Burkette, you are so disgustingly healthy you don't understand why some of the old people are not in church every Sunday. You have no idea the aches and pains they have to overcome to get up, get dressed and get here."

She was right. I did not know it then, but now I understand! In our youth, it is easy to take our health for granted, but with the passage of time our bodies began to require an increasing amount of care and maintenance. All the other good things we want in life tend to lose their value if we do not have the health of mind and body to enjoy them.

## Home and Family

Equal to our desire for good health — if not even greater — is the desire for friendly and supportive family relationships. There is no pain comparable to loneliness — the feeling that no one loves or cares for us.

I know of no more tragic scene in human life than aged parents whose children have no time for them. The people whom I know who have attained true greatness have invariably been persons who respected their

parents. In his book, *A Spiritual Autobiography*, William Barclay of Scotland, a Christian writer whose books sold more than a million copies, wrote: "Whatever I have done in life is because I stood on the shoulders of my parents" (W. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.).

One of the oldest codes of family relationships declares: "Honor thy father and thy mother," (Exodus 20:12). As we grow older, family ties become more meaningful and more important.

## Financial Security

One of the major concerns of many senior citizens is whether they will have adequate financial resources for their later years. A feeling of financial security, however, may depend as much upon our faith and perspective as it does upon our money. I know people whose income and financial resources are very limited, yet they feel confident about the future. On the other hand, I know people of wealth who live in fear that God's blessings will end before their years are completed.

The concept that we can provide for ourselves guaranteed financial security is an illusion. A war, a natural disaster, an expensive terminal illness, or a world wide economic crisis can take away all we have. Surely, we want to practice prudent financial management, but ultimately our security is in God from whom all our resources come. I believe the Apostle Paul described the only absolute security we can experience when he wrote:

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want... My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ," (Phillipians 4:12, 19 NIV).

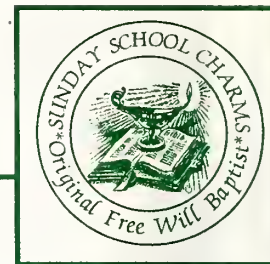
## Maturity

As long as we live, we all want to continue growing. We want life to come together with a sense of meaning and purpose. We want to feel that we are fulfilling our mission on earth.

The true measure of our lives, however, is not solely



# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



## Tools for Teaching Children

*submitted by: Kathy Markuson*

Times are changing. Jobs are changing. People are changing. Technology is changing.

The Sunday School must change. It cannot use yesterday's tools in today's world. The biblical principles of preaching, teaching, and soulwinning never change. Neither does ministry to people. But the methods, programs, and techniques must change in order to reach our children of today. Because of the lifestyles, society, and technology of today, long gone are those days of sitting quietly and listening to instruction. Children must not only hear, but see and feel instruction from God's Word. They have to be motivated to learn!

Motivation is not yelling, not begging for their attention. It is like putting salt on their tongues and showing where and how to find water. It is recorded that 90% of teaching is motivation.

There are many tools available for teachers to use to motivate students. The following list contains suggestions only. They are to be used in an appropriate manner. Teachers need to be familiar with a particular teaching tool before using it. Choose a tool that best fits your teaching style and your lesson. Gear it to the age and ability of your students. Don't be afraid to experiment, though. You never know how these tools can work until they are tried. If the teacher is motivated — the students are easier to motivate. Seize and utilize the teachable moment!

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bulletin Boards                | Songs               |
| Bible Search                   | Flannelgraph        |
| Co-operative buzz groups       | Flash Cards         |
| Chalkboards                    | Story telling       |
| Chalk Talks                    | Handcrafts          |
| Charts                         | Object Lessons      |
| Dioramas (3-dimensional views) | Role Playing        |
| Computers                      | Puppets             |
| Films                          | Overhead Projectors |
| Videos                         | Posters             |
| Games, contests                |                     |

### **Remember:**

No tool or technique will work if it is substituted for thorough preparation and prayer. They will not take the place of love and concern. They can, however, help to make classes as vibrant and interesting as possible.

### **Our Goal:**

To teach Children about Jesus and His Word.

### **Our Method:**

Whatever tool is necessary without compromising the Word.

## THE GOLDEN YEARS

in what we do but also in what we become. We may finish our work by a given age, but we never complete the process of becoming. Maturity is the prized achievement of human

life, and it comes only to those who make it a life-long quest. To attain spiritual maturity is the highest goal we can reach.

1998 (Vol. 3, No. 7) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

## Gleanings from the 1937 Issues of *The Free Will Baptist*

A group of ministers and church officers met Monday evening (date not given) at Sarecta Church to organize for the purpose of more Bible study and a clearer understanding of their work.

The following officers were elected: Lloyd Vernon, Moderator; R.C. Proctor, Assistant Moderator; Lucy Wells, Secretary and Treasurer; S. W. Jones, Assistant Secretary... Meetings are to be held each Monday evening after the first Sunday, beginning at 7:00 PM.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The Sunday School at Bridgeton reached its highest mark in the history of the church Sunday, February 14, with a total of 94 present. Harold French is the superintendant.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The Opening Consecration Service of Selma Free Will Baptist Church will be held May 2, 1937, beginning at 3:00 pm. The new church building is not completed but will begin holding both Sunday School and Church services. An interesting program has been prepared for this special opening program. The Rev. J. H. Worley, builder of the Selma Church will deliver the main address. The Rev. S. H. Styron and the Rev. R. N. Hinnant will also appear on the program. Mrs. Georgie Frost Barnes of Lucama will sing "Open the Gates of the Temple." Other special music is being arranged.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The Twenty-Fifth Session of the North Carolina Free Will Baptist State Association (formerly Convention) will convene with St. Marys Church, Wilson, County, NC on September 15 and 16, 1937.



# 1873 - 1998

*Celebrating 125 Years of Service to  
Original Free Will Baptists*



# FESTIVAL PLANS ARE MOVING FORWARD!

Plans for Festival '98 with Franklin Graham, scheduled to be held September 27-29, 1998, at East Carolina's Dowdy Ficklen Stadium, Greenville, NC, is moving forward with great strides. The first of a series of Festival Newsletters was printed and distributed early in April, informing eastern North Carolinians of the opportunity to learn about the various committees that have been formed to deal with the various aspects of the Festival. The opportunity for eastern North Carolina to share His Gospel and to influence the lives of others in becoming true disciples has never been greater. The hope and prayer of all those involved in the Festival is that there will be a great gathering of souls as a result of the work and prayers of thousands of workers.

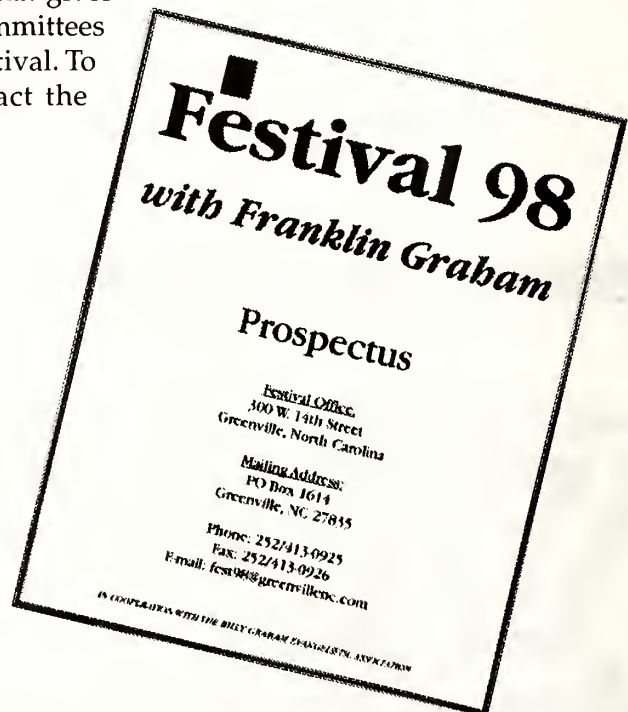
Dr. Edgar S. Douglas, Executive Committee Chairman, states:

"Imagine 40,000 people in one place, all singing and praising God in unison. If we do our work completely, this will be the scene at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium for three nights, September 27-29, 1998. I have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm, generosity, and volunteer efforts of many, many people who eagerly look forward to Festival 98. So far, we seem to have God's favor. Continue to pray that all the churches of Eastern North Carolina will become involved. Thank you for your enthusiastic cooperation."

The Festival office is: 300 W. 14th Street, PO Box 1614, Greenville, NC 27835; phone 252-413-0925; Fax 252-413-0926; E-Mail: fest98@greenvillnc.com.

A "Prospectus" has been printed (as shown) that gives complete information pertaining the various committees and how churches can become involved in the Festival. To obtain copies of the Festival Prospectus, contact the Festival Office between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM.

*September 27-29, 1998  
East Carolina's  
Dowdy Ficklen Stadium  
Greenville, North Carolina  
Plan Now To Attend*





Dr. Pepper Worthington

## DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Henri J. M. Nouwen. *Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life*. Norte Dame: Ave Maria Press. 63 pages.

### Introduction

Important to Jesus was his time of withdrawal where in the stillness of a lonely place he could pray, meditate, and contemplate. Henri Nouwen declares, "Somewhere we know that without a lonely place our lives are in danger" (14). His book seeks to stress the need for solitude in a world driven to produce, the need for silence in a world bombarded by words, the need for distance in a world that demands involvement.

### Action and Solitude

All of us desire to accomplish something, to make a contribution somewhere, to be useful to somebody. There might be a danger lurking in this desire for action when, as Nouwen notes, "We often make the result of our work the criteria of our self-esteem" (18). Danger looms when we "slowly come to the erroneous conviction that life is one large scoreboard where someone is listing the points to measure our worth" (18). We may feel we can't live up to the expectations of our success, that someone will discover our weaknesses, that the moment will come when "someone will unmask the illusion" (20).

What can solitude teach us? Inner freedom. Awareness that all power comes from God. A quiet center of self. Acceptance, Comfort. "For then," Nouwen asserts, "your love for this world can merge with a compassionate understanding of its illusions" (26).

### Community Care

In the community Jesus did care. He wept at the grave of Lazarus. He healed others. He fed the multitude. He listened to others. He cared. Nouwen observes: "To care means first of all to empty our own cup and to allow the other to come close to us" (42).

To care means to be vulnerable. Nouwen recalls authors he has read who were present to him through their honest, searching words. He observes: "It is remarkable how much consolation and hope we can receive from authors who, while offering no answers to life's questions, have the courage to articulate the situation of their lives in all honesty and directness. Kierkegaard, Sartre, Camus, Hamarskjold, and Merton — none of them — have ever offered solutions" (35).

### Expectation, Patience, and Joy

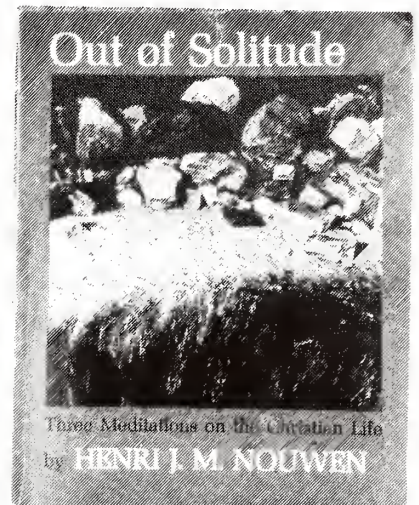
"The mother of expectation is patience," declares Nouwen. The etymology of patience is "patior" or "to suffer." Oddly, imagine the suffering moving toward expectation and joy: "a hindrance becomes a way;" "an obstacle becomes a door;" "a misfit becomes a cornerstone" (55).

Jesus asked us to look at our pains and then look beyond them in expectation of joy. Nouwen insists: "A life lived in expectation is like a life in which we have received a letter, a letter which makes him whom we have missed so much return even earlier than we could imagine. Expectation brings joy to the center of our sadness and the loved one to the heart of our longings" (60).

Expectation brings God into our heart. Nouwen observes: "Is God present or is he absent? Maybe we can say now that in the center of our sadness for his absence we can find the first signs of his presence. And in the middle of our longings we discover the footprints of the one who has created them" (61).

### Conclusion

Solitude allows us time to pray, meditate, and to know ourselves detached from the results of our work. We may grow in care, community, and expectation as we realize that "God's presence is the presence of the One who came, but is still to come; who touched our hearts, but has not yet taken all our sadness away" (62).

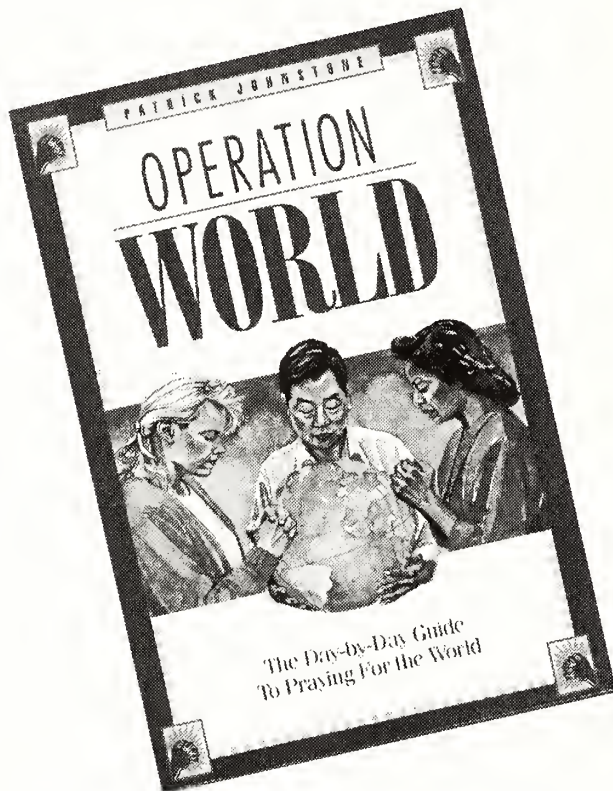


***Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**



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# The Free Will Baptist

June 1998

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## With Cherished Memories on this Father's Day

Since April two years ago, when our Daddy departed this earth, we have often longed for his presence, his counsel, and his opinions, as memories of the wonderful years with him flood over us. For more than ninety-five years, he filled his niche in life, never wandering too far from his part of Wayne County — around Pinkney, or Nahunta, or Fremont. Once he did go as far west as Winston-Salem, and many times north to Virginia to visit our sister Janice, and as far east as land could take him, to Surf City or some other fishing pier. He didn't need to travel; his contentment rested in a small area of our world near where he was born, where he grew into manhood, where he operated a country store that was built by our Grandfather, the Rev. J. S. Overman, in the late 1920s. Daddy's satisfaction rested in the farm which he purchased during the Depression years. On the farm he plowed, planted, and harvested its crops to provide for us — his family; and he taught us the value of hard work, that farm work never really ended, not even during the cold Winter months, for it was then that we cut the ditch banks of weeds and bushes, cut wood to heat and cook with, and also to cure tobacco with during the summer. Daddy's inner peace and spiritual needs were satisfied at Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church, where all of my family became members of the Church. He would often attend other Free Will Baptist churches that were nearby, but Union Grove was the focal point of his spiritual life.

Aside from his work and responsibilities, he would take time for the things he enjoyed. These included "fox hunting" with his walker hounds, fishing, and local baseball games. His fox hunting days ended about the time he retired from farming; then his fishing days began. Both of these pastimes included "bubbies" that shared these times with him. Baseball games were played just up the road at Pinkney, and always on Saturday afternoon (never on Sunday at the Pinkney ball park), and occasionally he would venture to Goldsboro to watch a "Carolina League" game. His ability to break away from the daily routines of life to hunt, fish, and enjoy a sports activity may have contributed to his longevity.

With cherished memories, we remember his many examples of kindness and love. It was not the "things" in life, for they were not abundant around our house. It was the family atmosphere, the role that he fulfilled as husband and father which he shared for over fifty years with our mother, and for ten years with our stepmother, that took root in our souls and thus

guided us on to adulthood and into our own niches in life. We cherish the times he played with us and remembered us with

tokens of his love, when he "loaded" us into the car and took us to Goldsboro, our main town, where we could enjoy our visit to the Kress and Woolworth five and dime stores. We cherish the memories of a Daddy that seldom spanked, but persuaded us in other ways to correct ourselves and to do what was right. We cherish the memories of his hard work and sacrifices to provide for us, and to "save" for us. We cherish the memories of the example he set in faithfulness to our church. He taught us to work, to be honest, to shun the wrong, and to share our love. His teaching was by example.

His friendliness toward others was to be admired, even with strangers with whom he would "strike" up a conversation. There was always something he could talk about, and people responded to him. He liked to do things himself, such as doing his own banking, grocery buying, and paying his bills in person. These people knew him. His age and physical condition during his latter years did not confine him in his own little world at home until he was forgotten by others. We cherish his self-determination to keep on when others would have given up.

Like everyone who lives on this earth, Daddy's life had its low points — when Quentin, our brother was wounded in action during World War II; when he lost first his father and a few years later his mother (our grandparents); and when we lost our mother and much later our stepmother. We hold great admiration for his handling of the difficult times in his life; for the inner strength that he drew on. There, was, however, much laughter and enjoyment in his life. He outlived all his "Buddies," but he always had his four children, his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other relatives, and a host of friends.

His legacy to us is not monetary; it is not the farm; it's the cherished memories of a Daddy who loved us, who was proud of us and truly loved us — his children. This is what we cherish on this Father's Day.

(Note: These words have been written in memory of our Daddy, Clarence H. Overman, Sr., in behalf of all his family and loved ones, and especially in behalf of my sisters, Mrs. Janice Vick and Athelene Pittman, and in memory of our brother, Quentin.



*C. H. Overman*

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## NEXT MONTH

*July is  
Christian  
Education Month*

*June is  
Cragmont  
Assembly Month*



# Features

## *Insubmersable*

(A Personal Testimonial)

by Candice Ivey

Isn't it funny how we sometimes get so wrapped up in the simple things of life that we fail to grasp a full appreciation of the big beautiful picture that's right in front of us? I was guilty of this mistake myself before the true reality of how precious life can be set in. Three years ago I had it all — friends, prestige, and the ability to do anything. So much that nothing seemed to stand in my way. But that's when a wrench got thrown in my machinery. A machine that got busted up and still managed to keep going. Even in the darkness of my once worthless life, the care and compassion of certain people managed to help shed light on what was still salvageable. After experiencing the uniqueness of a close knit school, and the unending, miraculous love of our Lord God and his blessed Son Jesus, a life that seemed lost and then unreachable proved to be insubmersable.

After high school on December 2, 1994, I had hopped in my Blazer to run to a neighboring store before my soccer tryouts that day, but that proved to be the longest trip I would ever take. After pulling out from behind a stop sign, my car came in the path of an eighteen-wheel log truck that smashed in to the driver's side of my vehicle knocking me immediately unconscious. The first rescue team to reach the wreck immediately discovered that because of the severity of my head injuries, I would have to be air lifted to Pitt Memorial Neurological Hospital. A quick, longing prayer was all my mother had time to utter before the EMS crew loaded my seemingly lifeless body into the awaiting helicopter.

After arriving at Pitt Memorial Neurological Hospital in Greenville, Dr. Hardy and Dr. Cooper had to



break the news to all of my family and friends, that the possibility of my living through the first twenty-four hours was slim. If I were somehow able to survive, I would be nothing but a vegetable surviving by machines in a bed for the rest of my life. At the news of my possible future, my mother and father made the heart wrenching decision to have me unplugged from all life support and feeding tubes and let the wonder of God take me to heaven. But even the love of our Lord can prove doctors wrong. Miraculously after forty-eight hours of a strong heartbeat and steady breathing, doctors told my parents that I wasn't going to instantly die and to be prepared for the long haul.

After reading my CAT and MRI scans, the medical team realized that I was retaining too much cerebral fluid inside the skull; therefore, brain surgery was needed. After undergoing the operation, I continued to stay in a coma for a month and a half encountering paralysis, pneumonia and many in-patient therapies. Finally, after showing little signs of

improvement, I began waking from the unconscious state. But emerging from a coma isn't like what's shown on TV; it's a long struggle of reflexives, reactions, muscle endurance and prayer. When my parents felt that the hospital had achieved all it could in my case, they insisted on taking me back to the security of familiarity of home with the assuredness that one of them would quit work to take care of me.

God does however, have a funny way of working things out. Once home, because I was still only a junior, finishing high school was still somehow only a glimmer of hope. But how was I going to go to school as an invalid unable to walk? Physical Rehabilitation then became our top priority. After repeated trips to the rehabilitation center, I gradually moved from a wheel chair, to a walker, to a platform cane and to a single based cane. That journey proved to me, unfortunately, that people can be truly rude and uncaring. I would go about my life and have to struggle with the crass stares and points that people would submit me to. Nonetheless, to finish the required academic years, I required in home schooling and somehow managed to graduate.

After high school, I was able to regain unsteady mobility and had to decide if college was still feasible for me or not. I was, after all, still a severe brain injury survivor who could barely walk. With the help of my parents and God, I decided that even though I was not the ideal student now, I was healing every day and I would not have the possibility of a future without a college degree. My acceptance earlier in the year to Wake Forest University was no longer an attainable dream of mine and so I



chose to find another route to take. That road ended up leading me seven blocks away to Mount Olive College which was less than a mile from where I lived all my life. It was a small, private, Christian college, that could offer the security I needed on a campus that wasn't too large for me to handle. Although it was an ideal school, I had never considered it before. Now it seemed to be the perfect choice.

During my first year here, I worked as hard as I could on academics and with the help of the understanding professors at this school and a lot of studying, I miraculously made the President's List with a 4.0 GPA and proved everyone wrong. But I wasn't through proving myself a wonder of God's power. In April of my freshman year, I decided that because of my love for MOC, I would be in the school pageant, regardless of how silly I would model, dance and talk. The night of the pageant, we had private interviews, an opening number, sportswear competition, talent competition and an evening-wear category. With five other wonderful girls, who all did a fantastic job, unbelievably I won the crown. To my amazement, the girl who had been labeled handicapped and was brain injured, was able to proudly gain the title of Miss Mount Olive College 1997!

After starting an unforgettable trip in my car which lead me all the way to a Greenville Neurological Hospital and eventually to Mount Olive College, God has proven to me that he still performs miracles on the most unsuspecting people. Even after I was left brain dead by a tractor-trailer, labeled hopeless by top doctors and thought myself useless, I found a life after emptiness. A small local school with caring individuals turned out to be a life jacket in a sea of rapids that was calmed by the only man who can right a wrong. Because of our Saviour, I felt the amazing and unquenchable love that only He can submit and now try each day to be a testimony of His power!

## Annie Cratt: Devoted to the Franklin Graham Crusade

by Peggy Bailey

Feature writer for *The Williamston Enterprise* and the *Robersonville Herald*.

Much like the call to the original disciples, the invitation to become fishers of men for Jesus Christ came unexpectedly to 68 year-old Annie Cratt. For those who know her it's no surprise that leaders of the Franklin Graham Festival singled her out to chair a group in the heart of Martin County as they prepare for the event in Greenville next September. However, to Annie it came first as a shock, and then as a challenge she couldn't resist.

Born the eleventh of 14 children to the late Alonza and Lilley Pollard Harrison, she always blended in the crowd at home, in school, at Robersonville Products where late in life she took her first public job, and in worship services in Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church.

Christianity has been a way of life for generations in Annie's family.

Her grandfather was an itinerant minister who traveled on a mule and cart to churches in surrounding counties, as well as those near home to preach the gospel. He established Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Beaufort County after the turn of the century and his portrait hangs in the sanctuary there as a tribute to his memory. One of Annie's most treasured memories is that of her grandfather as the bearded old gentleman sat by the window reading his Bible. Another is the image of her widowed mother leading her 14 children to revivals, quarterly meetings, and regular Sunday worship services.

Annie's own children and grandchildren love to hear her tell a favorite family story about going home after services one night, and in the hustle and bustle of the large clan one of the boys was left sleeping on a pallet beneath a pew. When they returned to the dark building to pick him up, he was still sleeping soundly. The Harrison family has been prominent in the work at Rose of Sharon since it was established in 1896. Annie and her sister, Mertie, are two of only five active charter members now attending the Sunday school, which began in the early 30s.

Annie never wanted or needed the limelight. She married King Cratt when she was only 15 years old and became a mother herself, at 17. During the next few years they were blessed with three other daughters and one son. Being a full-time homemaker took all of Annie's time, and she was content to raise a Christian family, like her mother before her.

As the years passed and each child left the nest, the changing times influenced her to try her own wings. She secretly applied for work at Robersonville Products, a new factory going up in the county. Of course, this was hard for her husband to understand, when she finally built up the nerve



Annie Cratt, Bear Grass area Coordinator of Prayer Group in Bear Grass



## **Annie Cratt: Devoted to the Franklin Graham Crusade, Cont...**

to tell him. He was from the old school where men were the providers and women the homemakers, but he finally agreed she needed to do this for her own self-esteem, if she made the cut and was accepted from the hundreds of applications.

Annie was hired, and much to her delight a new way of life began. Her own money felt good in her pocket and her independence began to grow. Life was good and the memories of growing up in "hard times" after her father died mellowed. Knowing she and King had produced five fine children and several grandchildren made her happy, but her work created a sense of worth she hadn't felt before.

The work at Robersonville Products was very demanding for a woman. Being a petite person, this created a lot of stress on her body that still bothers Annie, even after her retirement a few years ago. Still, she says, "This was the best thing that could have happened to me, after raising my family. It has given me an income I wouldn't have had, and since King died of cancer a few years ago, I don't know how I could have lived without the benefits earned at the Hallmark plant."

Though she had taught Sunday school, participated in youth activities, worked in the local church's auxiliaries, and traveled to England, Vancouver, and the Holy Land, Annie still felt unqualified to voice her opinions too strongly. She often politely declined when asked to assume leadership responsibilities outside the home and church. So when the call came from the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood last September, inviting her to attend a luncheon in Greenville, she went out of courtesy. She knew it had something to do with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, but had no intention of getting too involved.

It turned out to be the Franklin Graham Festival of Faith planning meeting and Annie became excited at

being included in the organization of church groups working toward its success. Materials were handed out and a seed of conviction took root in her heart. An inner voice kept telling her she needed to become more active in the movement. Old feelings tried hard to curb her efforts. "Those insecurities were apparently winning," she said, "I had convinced myself I didn't have the education or the ability to lead a group of Festival volunteers. Then the phone rang and it was Ronnie, asking me to get the churches in the Bear Grass area organized. I couldn't resist any longer."

Annie began by calling her own pastor, who is the captain for the Bear Grass area. Then she contacted the ministers of the Bear Grass churches, and was elated at their interest. Their first meeting was held at Rose of Sharon and the group decided to hold a community prayer service the first Wednesday night in the months leading up to the Franklin Graham Festival in September. Roberson Chapel and Bear Grass Presbyterian Churches, Rehoboth Pentecostal

Holiness Church, Rose of Sharon and the Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church take turns hosting the area prayer services, with guests from various other denominations participating.

Each church has established a "Church Cabinet" made up of the minister, Congregational Leader, Operation Andrew Leader, Men's, Women's, and Student Leaders, Counseling and Fellow-Up Leader. These cabinets have been told, "The key to a crusade's success is the involvement of hundreds of Christians. Such a committee is a miniature crusade happening within the walls of your own church." This is how they expect to capitalize on the special interest and talents of lay people, and when the talents are pooled, a spiritually powerful and effective team develops.

Annie has seen that happen during the past six months. She's conquered her own fear of public speaking by sharing her personal Christian testimony, along with the materials offered by the Franklin Graham Festival Crusade Committee.



*Left to right: the Rev. Joey Williams, Pastor of Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church; the Rev. Linwood Conner, Pastor of Rehoboth Pentecostal Holiness Church; Anne Cratt, Coordinator of Prayer Groups in Bear Grass area; the Rev. Norwood Futrelle, Pastor of Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort County; and Raafat Girgis-Abdel-sayed, Pastor of Bear Grass and Roberson Chapel Presbyterian Churches.*

# Layman's League

## Dates to Remember

June 4 Promotional Committee VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7:30 PM.

June 5-6 Spiritual Life Retreat, Camp Vandemere.

## Spiritual Life Retreat

Camp Vandemere, NC

June 5-6, 1998

"...whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4).

Theme: "Standing on the Promises"

Friday, June 5

6:00 PM Fellowship and Sharing Time

Saturday, June 6

9:00-9:30 AM Fellowship Time

9:30-10:15 AM "Standing on the Promises in Redemption"

The Rev. Frank Flowers

10:15-10:45 AM Recreation and Fellowship

10:45-11:30 AM "Standing on the Promises in Sonship" Mr. Elmer Harell

11:30-1:00 PM Lunch and Recreation

1:00-1:45 PM "Standing on the Promises in the Word"

The Rev. David C. Hansley

1:45-2:15 PM Recreation

2:15-2:45 PM Prayer and Meditation

2:45-3:30 PM Sharing Time

3:30 PM Benediction

## Registration for Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

Each person planning to attend the retreat is requested to complete and return this form by May 1, 1998.

Make checks for overnight accommodations payable to the State Layman's League. (\$5.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check appropriate blanks)

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 6, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere Friday night, June 5, 1998.

Please return this form to:

Mr. Robert Tripp, 305 Piney Neck Road, Vanceboro, NC 27586

"Speaking to representatives from Bethany Pentecostal Holiness Church and the First Free Will Baptist Church in Williamston was not so hard after all," she says now. "We just discussed the goals and objectives set by the General Committee. Everyone has been so receptive. And I've had some positive conversation one-on-one with the general public, something I found hard to do before this training."

"There won't be any Free Will Baptists, Pentecostal Holiness, Presbyterians or any other denominations when we get to heaven. I pray that the area churches will continue to get together for prayer meetings now and then, even after the Festival," she said at their last meeting.

Annie has two talents she uses extensively in her home church. She's served as Flower Chairman for years. Duties include seeing that the church is adorned on special occasions, and delivering floral arrangements to hospital patients. This provides her an opportunity to visit the sick and shut-ins, and it gives them assurance that someone really cares. Her favorite duty is singing alto in the Rose of Sharon choir, and this is one of the things she looks forward to in the September Festival. Her face lights up when she discusses the events; especially when she said, "If it's the Lord's will, I am going to be singing in the Franklin Graham Festival Choir."

This will be just another time Annie Cratt may seem lost among the crowd, but she's not complaining. She knows she has a personal God, though he has many children. And that He loves each and every one of them in His own special way. That's why Annie is now willing to do what she once thought was impossible...to seek the lost and present the message of Christianity. "If just one soul is saved, it will be worth all the time and efforts of all the committees. That is something to sing about." ■



# A Father's Prayer



FATHER, thank you that I have become a father, too.

Help me to remember that I, too, was once a child.

Give me patience: That I may give my sons and daughters time to learn for themselves, as all children must, what cannot be put off for later.

Give me forbearance: That I may always find the time to tell them what it is I must say. And let me always tell them out of love.

Give me understanding: That I may know something of what my children nurse within their hearts. And let my heart be full for them.

Give me restraint: That I may never let anger dictate how I act and speak to them. But neither let me vacillate or fail to say what should be said.

Give me judgment: That I may judge wisely their acts and actions — both what they have done and what they have not done — and measure their doings by the same scale as my own.

Give me insight: That I may see not only their faults but their strengths. Yet let me learn not to see things that will correct themselves.

Give me humor: That I may laugh with them and know they should sometimes laugh at me.

Give me sympathy, and compassion, too: That I may share their sorrows and in sharing, help them learn to accept what must be.

Help me ever to provide well for them. Yet help them to know that all they want may not be theirs to have.

Instill within me a sense of values such that I may help them wisely build their own.

Give me humility along with strength that they shall have these, too.

And help me, Father, in my faith to You to be as a child such as was your Son, that I may guide my children in His footsteps and walk in them myself.

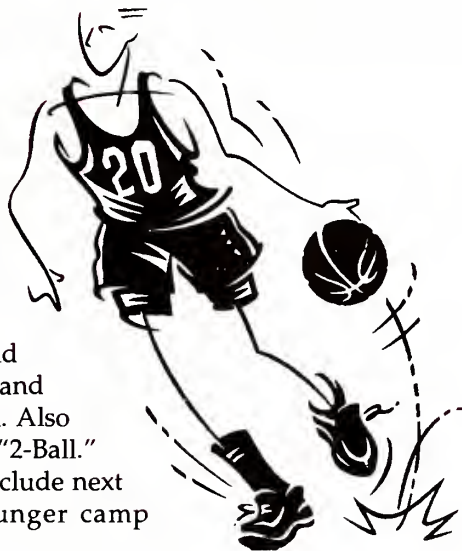
Jim Chaney

# Camp Vandemere Our Family Enrichment Center

## "Hoops for Christ 98"

### He stops! He shoots! He scores!

That was the cry coming from Camp Vandemere's supporters on Saturday April 4. On that day Camp Vandemere sponsored the third annual "Hoops For Christ" basketball tournament. There was a good time to be had by all. We would like to thank everyone that participated and provided us with some good basketball. Also prior to the tourney was an exhibition of "2-Ball." This is a competition that we hope to include next year, opening the celebration to younger camp supporters.



The games of the day were brought to a conclusion with Friendship Four, from Friendship Church playing Holly Springs II for first place. With a double elimination tournament Friendship Four had an advantage of 0 losses. With the 15 to 12 win Friendship won the tournament. We look forward to seeing all of you next year.

In case you are interested in preparing for "2-Ball," below are the rules:

1. a combination of 2 players,
2. one minute time limit,
3. 7 designate spots to shoot from,
4. if a shot is made from each spot on the floor you will be given 10 bonus points,
5. if a shot is NOT attempted from each spot on the floor you will be penalized 10 points,
6. no player may shoot 2 consecutive shots,
7. only two lay-ups will be counted.

If you have any questions you may contact Tim Heath at 910-327-2850.

Changing the subject just a little, camp season is fast approaching. The camp has experienced tremendous support. We pray that this kind of support will continue. Those familiar with the camp will notice a new air conditioning unit in the dorm and dining hall. By the time this letter goes to press the camp will have ordered 40 new twin size mattresses to go along with new bunk beds. A new ice machine will be arriving at the camp soon to replace the old one that produced sometimes and not at other times. God has truly provided for the camp many wonderful blessings.

We encourage each one of you to bathe the camp with prayer. Like no other time before we stand in need of your prayers. Many decisions are to be made and God's guidance is needed. Again, thanks to all who have worked to support the camp!

## Summer Schedule for 1998

June 1-5  
Open

June 5 & 6  
Layman's League  
Spiritual Life Retreat

June 8-12  
Ralph Sumner, Director  
571 Sumner Drive  
Pink Hill, NC 28572  
910-298-5885

June 15-19  
Stanley Buck, Director  
3200 Western Blvd.  
Tarboro, NC 27886  
919-823-3964

June 22-26  
Women's Week  
Audrey Quinn, Director  
Judith Kennedy, Director  
2356 Wintergreen Road  
Cove City, NC 28523  
919-638-6406

June 29-July 3  
Jason Modlin, Director  
634 Henderson Street  
Mount Olive, NC 28365  
919-658-7170

July 6-10  
Eva Mae Clark, Director  
465 Half Moon Road  
New Bern, NC 28560  
919-637-5346

July 13-17  
Joe Ratcliff, Director  
6280 U.S. Hwy 17 N.  
Vanceboro, NC 28586  
919-244-0207

August 1  
All Day "Singin' By the River"



## JUNE IS CRAGMONT MONTH

by John Williams, Director

June is the month that has been designated as Cragmont month by the Convention. I wish to share several ways that your congregation could help this ministry.

### Prayer Items

Each Sunday of the month during the worship service have your congregation pray for:

- The staff who work at Cragmont,
- That God would grant safe travel,
- That God would grant a revival to those attending our youth, minister's and women's conferences,
- That all those who do not know Christ as their Lord will make professions of faith during a conference.

### Things You Can Do

Here are some suggestions to consider for each Sunday in the month or some variation.

- Have a special Cragmont Service one Sunday during the month.
- Take a special Cragmont offering.
- Have someone or several people give a brief testimony during the worship service each Sunday of the month. Have them focus on their spiritual experiences while attending a conference or retreat.
- Place Cragmont in your church budget.
- Plan a religious life retreat for your church to be held at Cragmont. We would be glad to help you in your planning.
- Encourage your youth to attend a summer youth conference this summer.

### Minister's Conference

Ministers, you are encouraged to attend the Minister's Conference at Cragmont June 15-18. This is a conference which offers ministers the opportunity to worship and fellowship with fellow ministers. If you plan to attend please register with the Rev. Doug Skinner. His address is 817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703.

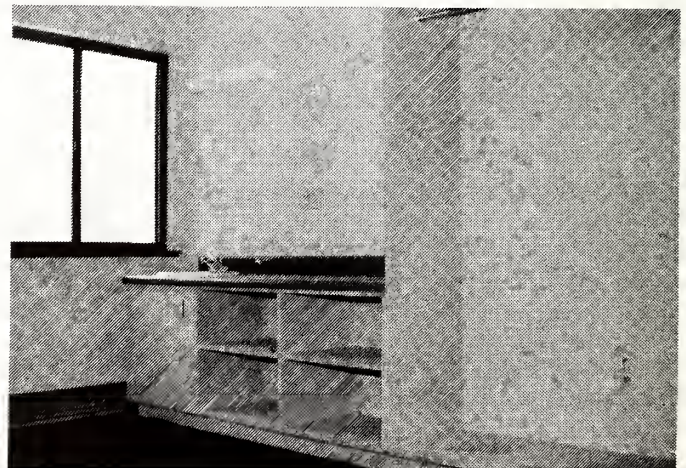
Ministers, you are a very important link between your congregation and the ministry of Cragmont. Please help us in our effort to keep the ministry in front of them as much as possible. On behalf of our staff, thank you for what you do and we hope to see you soon.



*Forms for concrete pad for new air and heat.*



*New stairs*



*New cabinets for rooms*



# Summer Camp Schedule

**CRAGMONT NEWS**

## JUNE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE

June 8-13, 1998  
Teresa Ball 919-524-4677  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530

## MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

June 15-18, 1998  
Doug Skinner 919-596-2456  
817 Lynn Road  
Durham, NC 27703

## CHRISTIAN CADET CONFERENCE

June 22-27, 1998  
Gary Bailey 919-735-3916  
112 Crosswinds Drive  
Goldsboro, NC 27530

## YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (YFA)

June 29-July 4, 1998  
Janie Sowers 919-235-2408  
PO Box 824  
Middlesex, NC 27557  
Frankie Baggett, Co-Director 919-746-7850

## YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (AFC)

July 6-11, 1998  
Frankie Baggett 919-746-7850  
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Ayden, NC 28513

## GENERAL YOUTH II CONFERENCE

July 13-18, 1998  
Chris Singleton 910-298-3520  
PO Box 162  
Beulaville, NC 28518

## GENERAL YOUTH I CONFERENCE

July 20-25, 1998  
Bryant Hines 919-638-3436  
PO Box 266  
Cove City, NC 28523

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

July 27-August 1, 1998  
James Gurganus 919-223-5251  
1317 Nine Foot Road  
Newport, NC 28570

## AUGUST WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE

August 3-8, 1998  
Teresa Ball 919-524-4677  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530

## Cool Cash for a Cool Cragmont

God is not short on money! So much has been accomplished in the last several years. In 1990 the "Jubilee" campaign was launched in hope of ending the debt on the Main Building by 1995. It was accomplished! Plans were then begun to renovate the Main Building with private baths as the main feature. By the beginning of the 1996 camping season, the north end had been renovated. To do that job we borrowed \$100,000.00 through Church Finance Association. By the end of 1997, through designated pledges, we had paid the one hundred thousand dollar loan down to \$33,000.00. In September 1997 our Board of Directors directed us to have plans drawn for the next phase of the renovation. Now, as of this writing, those plans are under construction. The cost of this phase is \$168,000.00 for a new total indebtedness of approximately \$200,000.00.

Through the many years that the Free Will Baptist denomination has operated this camp and conference ministry, thousands of lives have been touched. We need the help of people who care about this ministry of Cragmont. God has the financial resources available to pay for this much needed renovation. You may be one of God's resources. The purpose of this article is to ask you again to contribute to a fund that will be used to pay for the renovation. The campaign is called "Cool cash for a cool Cragmont." Of course this is a play on the air conditioning for the chapel. We want to find 168 pledges of \$1000.00 each. Below you will find a commitment form with suggestions for your gift. If you are not able to give \$1000 then please check "other" on the form and give what you can.

### Cool Cash For A Cool Cragmont

1233 North Fork Road  
Black Mountain, NC 28711

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$50 quarterly      \_\_\_ \$100 semiannually

\_\_\_ \$200 per year      \_\_\_ \$1000 in full

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_



## David O. and Donnie B. Thompson Endowed Scholarship Fund

Mount Olive College

W. Burkette Raper, Director of Planned Giving

The "David O. and Donnie B. Thompson Endowed Scholarship Fund" has been established in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, who were life-long residents of Mount Olive. The Fund provides an annual scholarship for academically talented and worthy North Carolina students.

Mrs. Nellie T. Francis of Mount Olive said that her mother, Mrs. Donnie Best Thompson, who died last year at the age of ninety-two, initiated the Endowment as a memorial to her husband, the late D. O. Thompson (1900–1982). The assets of the Endowment include a Charitable Gift Annuity and a direct gift by Mrs. Thompson, memorial gifts and contributions by family members.

Mrs. Thompson was the last resident living on West James Street, on which the old downtown campus of the College was located, who was living on this street when the college came to Mount Olive in 1953. Mr. Thompson, a local merchant, was on the first recorded list of local citizens who contributed to the College during its first year in Mount Olive.

The Thompsons were distinguished citizens who always supported the religious, cultural and civic life of the community. Mr. Thompson served on the Mount Olive Board of Alderman and Mrs. Thompson was a leader in the Mount Olive Extension Homemakers Club and was known for the beautiful flowers she grew in her yard. Both were active members of the First Baptist Church of Mount Olive.

All four of the Thompson grandchildren attended Mount Olive College.



Mr. and Mrs. Thompson

## The Rev. Singleton's Challenge: Ask Yourself WWJD

With his daughter, Reagan, seated among the graduates, the Rev. Chris Singleton challenged members of the Class of 1998 to live by the letters WWJD — standing for, *What would Jesus do?*

Mr. Singleton said that doing what Jesus would do sometimes challenges people to move beyond their comfort zone. He encouraged the graduates "to stay on task" living the life of a Christian and to resist Satan's lures — doing both one day at a time.

He also encouraged graduates to read the Bible everyday for guidance to better serve the Lord, to be honest with themselves and those around them, and to live by the Golden Rule.

Mr. Singleton, an alumnus of the College, has been pastor at Beulaville Free Will Baptist Church for the last 23 years and also serves as moderator for the Convention's Eastern Conference. He is volunteer chaplain at Duplin County Hospital and a fire, rescue and EMT volunteer. He and his wife, Vickie, also an alumna of Mount Olive College, have two children, Reagan and Zachary. Mr. Singleton recently returned from a missionary trip to the Philippines, which he alluded to in his remarks.

The Rev. Frank R. Harrison, campus minister, presided at the service in Rodgers Chapel.

Graduating senior Ernie Taylor read Isaiah 26:1–8. Taylor was president of the Student Government Association.

The Rev. Ray Williamson, pastor at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, gave the special commencement prayer. Mr. Williamson's son, Brad, was also a member of the graduating class.

Dr. Opey D. Jeanes, vice president for special services, lead the affirmation of faith.

Three graduating music majors — Rebecca Fordham, Myra Strickland, and Donna Whitley — sang an arrangement of *You'll Never Walk Alone*.

Mr. Lynn P. Thames, pastor of Bethesda Friends Meeting in Dunn, gave the benediction. Ms. Thames' son, Daniel, was also a graduate.

Following the service, many graduates, their families, and friends adjourned to a buffet luncheon in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. Graduation followed at 2:00 PM in College Hall.



## 198 Receive Degrees at 44th Commencement

As approximately 1,800 relatives and friends watched, 198 students became the newest graduates of Mount Olive College as they were presented diplomas in College Hall on May 9.

These graduation exercises represented the 44th commencement of the College. At the ceremony, Mr. L. Marvin Edwards, chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented three Associate in Science, four Bachelor of Arts, 22 Bachelor of Applied Science, and 169 Bachelor of Science degrees to graduates from Mount Olive, Goldsboro at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, New Bern, and Wilmington.

With 174 students receiving degrees in December 1997 and 198 graduating on Saturday, May 9, the class of 1998 numbers 372.

During the ceremony, four students and one faculty member received special recognition. Ms. Shannon Nichole Carter of Goldsboro was presented the Perret Award, honoring the junior with the highest grade point average. Ms. Donna H. Wimberly of Angier was honored with the Lora W. and Maurice H. King Award as the most outstanding non-traditional graduate in the College's degree-completion program. The Martin Award was presented to Mrs. Ruth Marie Coles of Goldsboro for having the highest grade point average for a four-year, full-time student. Ms. Jennifer M. Ellis of Suffolk, Virginia, received the Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for excellence in and out of the classroom. And Dr. Carl Broadhurst, assistant professor of business, received the Dr. Morris Award for excellence in teaching.

College trustee and alumnus Howard F. Scott delivered the commencement address.

"What do you value?" Scott asked the graduates. "I am not talking about money, or our job, or the car that we drive."

Instead, he asked them to consider kindness, honesty, courage, trustworthiness, respect, and responsibility — all of which enrich the practitioner and the recipient.

"No matter what you accomplished, somebody helped you," was the second point of Scott's message. He cited Bett Midler's song, *Wind Beneath My Wings*, to illustrate. He reminded graduates to acknowledge that special person or persons behind the scenes were providing encouragement and opportunity.

"We do not always have to be the one who flies high like a bird," he said. "If you want a natural high, be the wind for someone else."

For his third point, Scott advised graduates to be willing to accept change.

"Look at your life today and see what has changed in the past four or more years," he said. "My guess is that

you are not the same person you were the first day you stepped into your first class."

"Develop a sense of humor," was Scott's final admonition. "Learn to laugh at yourself."

With a healthy sense of humor, life will be less stressful, more fun, and easier, he said.

Dr. J. William Byrd counseled the graduates to be life-long learners. Because we live in a world that is rapidly changing, we must work hard at staying abreast of "the raging stampede of knowledge," he said.

To illustrate Byrd quoted Microsoft's Bill Gates, "Even though you are on the right track, if you stand there, you will get run over."

"The lovely words of Frost seem to say it well," Byrd said. "*The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.*"

"Oh, but what lovely miles they can be," he said. "The promise is to yourself, and therein lies the challenge: to be a life-long learner."

Other participants in the ceremony were: Mr. Bradley W. Miller, president of the Class of 1998, who read from Scripture and presented a four-foot diameter seal of the college as the class gift; the Mount Olive College Concert Choir, directed by Dr. Alan Armstrong, which performed a short program of special music; Mr. Earl Worley, who brought congratulations and greetings from the alumni association; Dr. Opey D. Jeanes, who gave the benediction; Mr. Gary Barefoot, who, as faculty marshal, lead the academic procession; and the Mount Olive Community Instrumental Ensemble, directed by Mr. David S. Stentz, Jr., which provided prelude, processional, and recessional music.



The Rev. Frank Harrison, the Rev. Chris Singleton, the Rev. Lynn Thumes, Dr. Opey Jeanes, and the Rev. Ray Williamson, moments before entering Rodgers Chapel for the Commencement Worship Service.



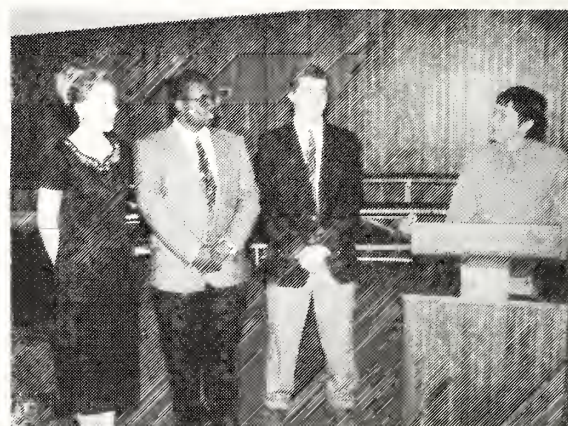
## Free Will Baptist Students Honored at Award Day on April 23



Julie Wetherington, received the President's Citizenship Award as the student who made the greatest contribution to the College during the academic year. Dr. Byrd made the presentation.



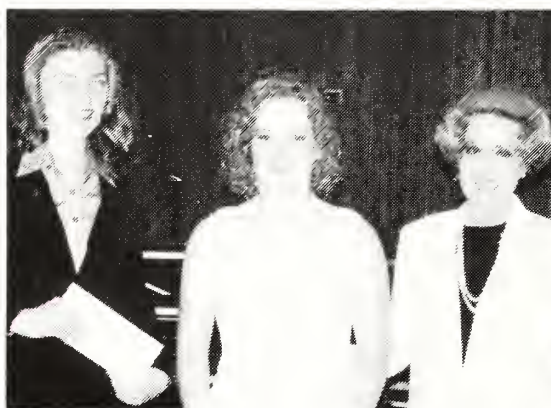
Becky Craft Kerns from Friendship Free Will Baptist Church was named to receive the William L. Warren Music Scholarship for outstanding instrumental music accomplishment. Ms. Irene Weldon, Associate Professor of Music, presented the award.



Jennifer Parker of Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston was elected and installed as secretary of the Student Government Association for the second year in a row. Next to Jennifer is Robert Watson, vice president and Denton Lee, president.



Lee Buck of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Tarboro was honored by Dr. Richard Bounds as the Most Promising Science Student.



Ms. Irene Weldon, associate professor of Music, presented the Charles B. and Margenette Hinnant Music Scholarship to Sharon Zirkle (left) and Michelle Wooten, both for exhibiting exceptional talent. Michelle Wooten is from Kings Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church.



Garrett Southerland of Westside Free Will Baptist Church received the Sophia H. Potts English Award for Excellence in writing. He also received the Faculty Award for Student Excellence. Professors Sarah Clere and David Rigsbee offer congratulations.



Ms. Kendra Jones of Jonesboro, Arkansas (second from right) received this year's Founders' Leadership Award which is sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Raper and was presented this year in honor of Mrs. Pearl R. Hunt. The award recognizes outstanding character and leadership.





## Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award

In recognition of the outstanding service rendered by many Free Will Baptist pastors, Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, North Carolina, has established the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award through Mount Olive College. The purpose of this award is to recognize a Free Will Baptist pastor for extraordinary leadership and service to his church, community and denomination. Emphasis is to be upon pastoral services and may include bi-vocational pastors who serve small churches. The award is to be used by the recipient to strengthen and enrich his pastoral ministry. The recipient is to provide a written report within one year of being recognized of how the funds benefited his pastoral ministry.

Originally from the Union Grove Church near Nahunta, Dr. Morris is providing a \$1,000 award as a memorial to the late Elder P. T. Lucas, Dr. Morris' great-grandfather, Elder Lucas, a Free Will Baptist minister early in this century, is remembered for his pastoral services. In sponsoring this award, Dr. Morris is seeking to strengthen and support the pastoral ministry.

The recipient will be selected from those nominated by their churches according to the following criteria:

1. **Pastoral Leadership and Service.** This category, which will receive the greatest weighing in the evaluation, includes effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development;
2. **Denominational Service,** including service to our convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries; and
3. **Community Service,** including services such as participation in local community ministries and service as a volunteer chaplain.

If you feel that your pastor has excelled in these areas, your church is encouraged to nominate him for this award by completing the following information sheet and attaching a letter of recommendation. Both the information sheet and the letter must be signed by the clerk of your church and the deacon chairman. To be considered for the 1998 award, nominations must be received by July 24. The recipient will be announced at a luncheon during the Pastor's Conference on August 3 at Mount Olive College.

The selection committee for this award will includes representatives from the North Carolina Ministerial Association and Mount Olive College. Please address all nominations or questions to: The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, or call Dr. David Hines at the College (919-658-2502).

## The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award Nomination Form

The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award is sponsored by Dr. Thomas R. Morris in honor of his great-grandfather who was a Free Will Baptist minister early in this century. Dr. Morris was motivated to sponsor this award by his appreciation for the Rev. James Evans who was his pastor when he was growing up in Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church. Evan's ministry was marked by his deep concern for the needs of his people. Dr. Morris wishes to honor ministers who demonstrate these special qualities. This \$1,000 award will be presented at a luncheon held during the Pastor's Conference on August 3, 1998 in the Murphy Regional Center at Mount Olive College.

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Current pastorate \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning date \_\_\_\_\_

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Conference membership | Date ordained |
|-----------------------|---------------|

**1. Pastoral Leadership and Service.** In this space below or in a letter of recommendation describe you minister's effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development. Please note that the major criteria for this award is extraordinary pastoral service. Give specific examples.

[illegible]



2. **Denominational Service.** In the space below note services to our Convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries. Include offices held, board memberships, and involvement in special projects. Give the dates when appropriate.

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3. **Community Service.** Note participation in local community ministries such as service as a volunteer chaplain. List offices held and give the dates when appropriate.

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*Please attach any additional information you think might help this committee evaluate the services and work of your pastor.*

Signatures

Deacon Chairman

Date

Church Clerk

Date

Please return this form along with a letter of recommendation by July 24 to: Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. For information call Dr. David Hines at the college (919-658-2502).

## 1998 Graduates

Congratulations to our 1998 High School graduates at the Children's Home. Graduating from Southern Nash Senior High School, our seniors are making plans for their future. We are very proud of them and their accomplishments.

Enjoli Burnette plans to work this summer and attend Mount Olive College in the 1998 Fall semester.



Angelia Kearney recently completed a Nail Sculpting Class. She plans to include this skill in her future arrangements.

Kelly Rich plans to attend Mount Olive College in the fall and will be working during the summer.

Please keep these girls in your prayers. We wish them the very best.



## ATTENTION

Please notify us if you have an address change or if you are receiving duplicate mailings.



## THANK YOU...

For supporting "Change for Children '98"



## ALUMNI HOMECOMING '98

Sunday, July 12, 1998

Free Will Baptist Children's Home  
Middlesex, NC



## News Letters From India and Nepal

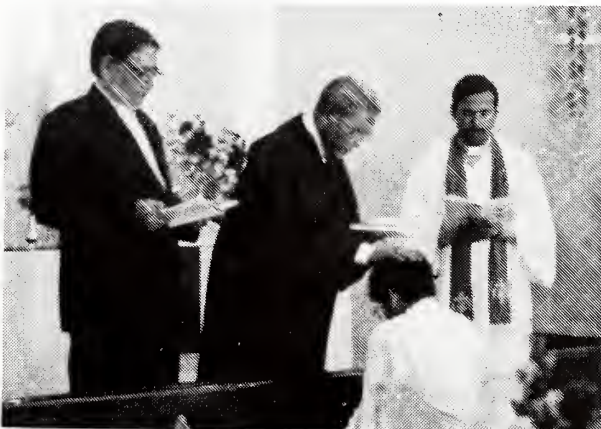
by Dr. E. M. Lall

It is becoming difficult to expand work in Nepal because of severe restrictions and vigilance on religious activities other than Hindus. The country of Nepal claims to be the only Hindu Kingdom in the World.

Yet, whatever work was established by us is progressing well under the indigenous leadership. There is liberty to the native people there to adopt whatever way of worship they prefer. The desperate, disappointed and dismayed people are coming to Christ to find peace and eternal life. The schools are doing very well, raising the downtrodden to purposeful life!

The highlight of the Bible Training Program was concluded in the ordination of Manoj Charan as a full-fledged minister of our church on Sunday, March 28, 1998, during the worship service. Manoj holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and also a two-years Masters of Divinity. After completion of his theological course on his own, he was withering as to which church denomination he should join. However, he came to be attached with our Pastor the Rev. Sunil C. Lal at Bareilly for six months without any remuneration. I felt that this young man is a devout Christian and we can work very well with him. Thus he was ordained. He will work at the church as minister in charge at Bareilly and the Rev. Sunil C. Lal will be posted elsewhere after he completes his certification course of theology at the North India Theological College, Bareilly, by April end.

Our Annual Bible Training Program



*Ordination of Manoj Charan, Bareilly, India.*



*Malakheti school in Nepal.*

sponsored by our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones, was held at Bareilly, from March 26–29, 1998, proved to be a boon to our rural ministers and deacons and was full of inspiration. Like the past year, it was attended by 52 Ministers and Deacons who were accommodated to sleep in the church wings and to roll up their bedding early in the morning, keeping the same in the church vestry, and participate in the program the whole day.

This year a good study of comparative religions was undertaken by the Rev. Manjo Charan, myself, and the Principal North India Theological College, Bareilly. Our people were fully equipped on the basics of the



*Annual Bible Training Program.*



## FOREIGN MISSIONS

subject which was often their shortcoming in the past. Mrs. F. N. Massey, retired deaconess of the Methodist Church, took up a very interesting subject, taught for the first time, as how the family of a pastor should be involved in the ministry. It was well taken by our people and a good progress is expected through this education. The entire program was meaningful and of a great blessing.

A new interdenominational ministry of Music and Evangelism has come into being in India. Even though it has not been known except at some parts in our State, it is growing to be an effective ministry through music. Our church people are interested in Christian music; therefore, they have adopted a resolution to help this ministry locally even though it may not be an appreciable financial contribution. In doing so, our people plan to use this ministry at some particular occasion in their rural congregations to effect evangelization, especially in the month of June.

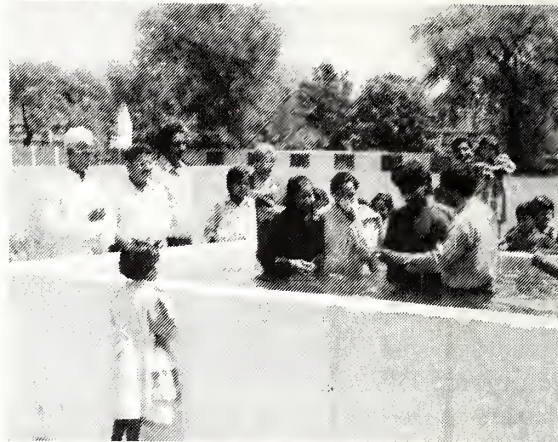
Three young people, two girls and one boy, were converted and baptized on April 5, 1998, after worship service. It was a tremendous joy to witness their testimonies and how they were moved with the Holy Spirit to come to the Lord for redemption and eternal life. Christianity is not merely a system of Ethics, it is the History of redemption through Jesus Christ, the personal Redeemer.

The service on Palm Sunday in all our churches was solemn and heart searching for the passion our Lord had to bear in this World and gave ransom to save us for salvation.



*The Rev. and Mrs. Irfan Masih of the Ministry of Music and Evangelism. (Pictured left).*

*Three young people baptised, pictured left.*



*Palm Sunday Service, pictured right.*



## New Work in Roxas Palawan Philippines

by the Rev. Pio dela Rosa

Roxas is a large town with 27 barangays (village units) located in the northern part of Palawan. This is a very difficult place to work and many workers have failed to start a church there. There is a lack of drinking water and other necessities, plus the strong resistance of the Roman Catholic Church to any Protestant work. Pastor Teddy Martinez and his wife, Vhem, have accepted the challenge to work in Roxas. They need our prayers for God's provision and for open doors and hearts to receive the truth of the gospel.





## Crusade for Every Place

by the Rev. Pio dela Rosa

The Mission Department conducts Evangelistic Crusades in different places throughout the Philippines. A Crusade was held on the Island of Denit and one hundred people accepted Christ as their personal Saviour. A similar Crusade was held in Malibongbong with the same results. From these Crusades we follow-up and establish local congregations. Please remember the Crusade Ministry in your prayers.



## Bible Study And Visitation

by the Rev. Pio dela Rosa

Conducting Bible Studies is not always easy. Some of the places are difficult to reach. We have to pass over a bamboo bridge to reach our destination. One night while crossing the bridge, one of our young people fell ten feet into the water below. We are thankful she was not hurt.



## News and Prayer Concerns

**Philippines:** A Short-Term Team, composed of thirteen members, recently returned from the Philippines. The team participated in the Annual Convention of the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines, conducted Vacation Bible School, worked in the South District Youth Camp and helped in the construction of a parsonage at Brookes Point. This was a very satisfying and rewarding work with great results. Have you considered joining a Short-Term Team in 1999? (Contact our office for details 252-746-4963). It is a life-changing experience.

**Pray for rain in the Philippines!** No significant rain has fallen in the Philippines since November, 1997. The land is parched; rivers and wells have dried up; rice stocks are running out; and the economy is weak. Approximately 2 million people are facing starvation on the Island of Mindanao alone. This situation will spread to the whole country if rain does not come soon. *Please pray!*

**Bulgaria:** Willem and Lydia van der Plas returned to Bulgaria on May 4. It was exciting and difficult to see them leave. It was exciting because of their love for the people of Bulgaria; yet it was difficult because Willem was in terrific pain due to his back problem.

*Please pray for him daily!* Hopefully, by the middle of June, they will travel to Holland where Willem will have surgery.

**Telethon 1998:** The 1998 Telethon broke all records. The total received was \$140,569.34. Please join the Board in praise to God for His exceeding abundant supply. To God be the glory great things He hath done!

**Build One For Them:** Several churches have accepted the challenge to provide funds to build a church building for one of our congregations in another country. There are, however, many more that need funding. I challenge every church to consider this exciting way to become involved with a sister-church. Please make this a matter of prayer!

**Pray For Them** is a exciting way for every person and church to be involved in reaching the world with the gospel and empowering our workers on the various fields through prayer. Prayer is front-line missions work and is absolutely essential if the work is going to prosper and grow. "Prayer gives power to missions." There are 237 countries and territories around the world; 96% of the world's population lives beyond our borders. We must be

intercessors for the nations of the world.

The Board of Foreign Missions has an inflatable globe that we will give to any church, auxiliary, Sunday school class, youth or men's group, etc., that is willing to use it as a means and reminder to pray for the nations. Instructions are attached to each globe, describing how to use it for a deeper life of intercession. Contact our office to receive yours (252-746-4963).

**Looking for a small project with great impact? Help send literature to the Philippines.** The Board of Foreign Missions has been given a sizable amount of Sunday school literature for use in the Philippines. Your auxiliary and church can send a box for just \$25. Ask for details.

**Invite the Director** for a special missions service. I still have open dates for 1998 and would be happy to receive an invitation to visit your church. All churches should desire to know what their missions program is doing first-hand, but I cannot come without an invitation. Call today!

**Pray Daily for Revival** this is the avenue to true spiritual awakening. Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support.





# June

Pro

Th

| SUN                            | MON                  | TUE                               |             |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 31                             | 1                    | 2                                 | 3           |
| 7                              | 8                    | 9                                 | 10          |
|                                |                      |                                   | June Won    |
| 14                             | 15                   | 16                                | 17          |
|                                |                      | Minister's Conference at Cragmont |             |
|                                |                      | Mexico Short-Term M               |             |
| 21                             | 22                   | 23                                | 24          |
| Father's Day<br>Summer Begins  |                      |                                   | St. Jo      |
| Mexico Short-Term Mission Team | June 13-23           |                                   | Christian C |
| 28                             | 29                   | 30                                | 1           |
|                                | MOC Session B Begins |                                   |             |
|                                |                      | Youth Frontier                    |             |

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRE

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|                                              | THU                                                                                        | FRI                                                                                | SAT                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
|                                              | <b>4</b><br>Layman's League<br>Promotional Committee<br>VFW Building, Snow Hill<br>7:30 PM | <b>5</b><br><br>Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat<br>Camp Vandemere, June 5-6 | <b>6</b><br>Woman's Auxiliary Executive<br>Committee |
| Conference at Cragmont — June 8-13           | <b>11</b>                                                                                  | <b>12</b>                                                                          | <b>13</b><br><br>— Mexico Short Term... —            |
| ne 15-18<br>Team — June 13-23                | <b>18</b>                                                                                  | <b>19</b>                                                                          | <b>20</b>                                            |
| ptist<br>Conference at Cragmont — June 22-27 | <b>25</b>                                                                                  | <b>26</b><br>MOC Session A Ends                                                    | <b>27</b>                                            |
| ence - YFA at Cragmont — June 29-July 4      | <b>2</b>                                                                                   | <b>3</b>                                                                           | <b>4</b>                                             |

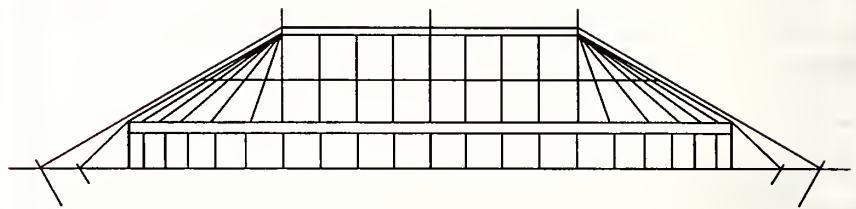
# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



## 1998 Mobile Ministry Has Full Season

It was never the directive intent of Christ that His churches confine their activities to within a church house located at a certain street intersection. It was His plan that the churches go out after the lost. The early evangelists carried the gospel to the people and did not wait for the people to come seeking the gospel. One of the greatest parables on evangelism ever given by Jesus was meant to urge His followers to "go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city...Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in." The evangelism of the New Testament churches was: a roadside, wellside, seaside, bedside, tableside, outside-the-doors evangelism.

We are pleased how God has provided the opportunity for our Tent or equipment to be used for various occasions for outreach ministry during the 1998 Season.



## 1998 Tent Schedule:

|                 |                                                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| June 8-13       | Caswell Center, Kinston, NC — Family/Employee Week   |
| June 29-July 5  | Bethel Church, Kinston, NC — Youth Emphasis Week     |
| July 20-24      | Cragmont Assembly, General Youth Conference          |
| August 1        | Camp Vandemere — Singing By The River                |
| Aug. 30-Sept. 4 | Plymouth, NC — Albemarle Conference District Revival |
| September 20    | Kings Cross Roads, Farmville, NC — Homecoming        |
| Sept. 27-Oct. 2 | Calypso, NC — Spanish/English Area Crusade           |

Should your church desire to use the Tent for an event, please contact us: Board of Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, or call (252)746-4963, FAX (252)746-8913.

## Whitfield Earns Eagle Award



Josh holding Eagle Award, Scout Leaders are in the back (Mike Saviak is directly behind Josh in glasses). Front row: Brother, Taylor; Mother, Donna; Josh; and Father, Micky

On April 5, 1998, Rooty Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Mount Olive, NC, had a special ceremony as part of their morning worship service. Josh Whitfield, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Mickey Whitfield received his Eagle Award from the Boy Scouts of America. As a member of Mount Olive Troop 200, he was presented his award from his troop leader, Mike Saviak. His fellow troop members were participants in the presentation ceremony.

Josh is a member of Rooty Branch Church where his father pastors and "All 4 Him" a creative ministry team that has been a part of the "Touching Lives Corps" work in St. Cloud, Florida at Old Canoe Creek Church. He is a Junior Counselor at Cragmont Assembly during General Youth Conference II. He plans to go on a short term Foreign Missions trip to Mexico this summer. Josh's Community Project for completion of his Eagle was the landscaping of Nelson Street Park in Mount Olive.

We are very proud of Josh and his accomplishments for God and Country.

## Teaching God's Word

In this book you will be studying Free Will Baptist theology. Now don't let that statement scare you. *Theology* simply means "a study of God." What we believe about God and His creation influences our view of everything else we believe about man, salvation, morality, and all other theological questions. Eventually all theology must find expression in an individual life. The object of our studies is that we put into practice what we believe.

As we begin this study of Free Will Baptist theology, perhaps it would be appropriate to ask ourselves a few questions: "What is the purpose of religion?" "Why are we Free Will Baptist?" "How is Christianity any better than any other religion; after all, aren't we all trying to get to the same place?"

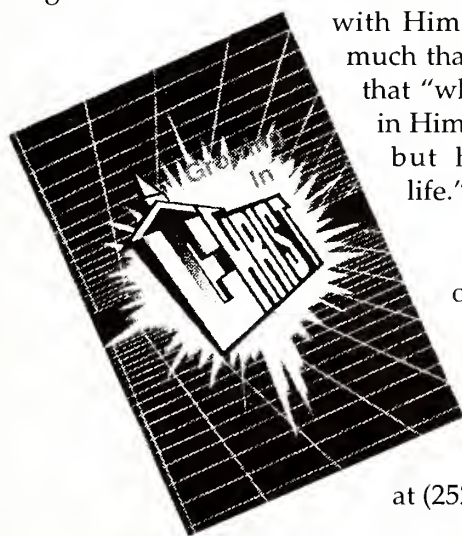
The purpose of religion is to bring man into an intimate relationship with God. God is Creator and Sustainer of the universe. God has revealed Himself to man in various ways, such as creation, nature, visions to individuals, prophets, Holy Scripture, etc. But God has revealed Himself perfectly through His Son Jesus Christ.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews makes the point repeatedly that Jesus Christ is God's Son and that He is the only perfect High Priest that has bridged the gap that separates man from God. Jesus is the only One who perfectly did the will of God, thereby qualifying Him to be the perfect sacrifice for man's sins. Jesus Christ is the only person ever to live that has perfectly revealed God to this world. Thus, if man is ever to have an intimate relationship with God, he must come to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. There is no other way!

We Free Will Baptists believe this because we have found it to be true. We believe this because this is what the Bible teaches. May the study of this book be an aid to help us know and understand God more fully. May this study bring us into a more beautiful and intimate relationship

with Him who loved us so much that He sent His Son, that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

To order your copy of "Growing in Christ," at a cost of \$1.00 each, contact your Home Missions and Evangelism office at (252)746-4963.



## IDEAS THAT WORK

The Role of the Finance Committee in  
Pastoral Compensation  
by Don Fader, Director

In the last two articles we have looked first at the historical perspective of compensation, and secondly, we explored attitudes that affect the relationship between the pastor and congregation. So now the question arises, how do we change the customs of the past and the attitudes of today?

### COMMUNICATION!

If we truly want to see effective and meaningful changes, it is critical that the pastor and congregation have a clear vision of what they want to accomplish. This vision can include the kind of programs, growth areas, leadership issues, and financial considerations the church will need to focus on. Far too often the pastor thinks he knows where the church wants and needs to go while the congregation has their own ideas about the future...unfortunately, there is no consensus. Once it is realized that they are on diverse paths, the future becomes uncertain and strife can develop.

All this could have been avoided if there had been a general agreement born from open and honest communication. But where does the communication take place? During morning worship or the evening service? Probably not. Sunday school and mid-week services have a predetermined format that does not easily yield to an open discussion. For most churches this leaves two venues, the quarterly business meeting and the church steps, neither of which provide an ideal forum.

Churches that are successful in developing long-range plans and visions usually delegate the initial planning to a small group or committee comprised of individuals with talents or expertise in the area they are being asked to work in. In many churches, the deacon board is the only standing board and sometimes the church will appoint them to take care of items that could best be handled by a temporary committee appointed or elected by the church.

For example, if the church is looking to expand its educational program, why would you appoint the deacons to look into this if you have teachers, or administrators in the congregation who are more suited by vocation than the deacons? Or if a new building is needed, wouldn't it make sense to appoint a general contractor, or building supply employee to a committee to look into a construction project? The point is this: there is a tremendous amount of talent in each of our churches and we need to use these individuals in the areas for which they are best suited.



## MINISTER'S PROGRAM

Communication within a committee of individuals with expertise in the subject at hand goes smoother, and more quickly than the entire church body trying to make every decision imaginable. How many of you have ever been in a business meeting while the entire church tried to decide whether the walls should be eggshell or parchment? If it makes sense to appoint qualified individuals to serve on committees like this, then isn't it equally beneficial to have a finance committee made up of members that can work through the budget and minister's compensation package?

We don't propose that the church hand over the decision-making process to a committee, but as previously mentioned, the planning process goes much smoother with a smaller, more focused and experienced group than trying to make small decisions with a large group. Once a plan is developed, it is presented to the body for a decision, thus allowing the church to make the big decisions while the detail is left to committees.

One of the least effective places for a pastor's salary package to be determined or discussed in detail is on the floor of a quarterly meeting. At best it is unpleasant, and uncomfortable, and at worst it can be disparaging and demeaning. Why is this? Quite often a discussion about the pastor's salary can be a thinly veiled debate about the pastor's effectiveness, popularity, or performance.

A congregation must be willing to look at job performance and providing a living wage as two separate issues. Even though they are related, they are different considerations. This is why a committee is usually best suited to work through these considerations. The committee must first make a commitment to funding the *position* of pastor in an equitable and fair manner with a living wage. Please note I said

position, not pastor. By addressing the position, you are able to take the personalities out of the picture, allowing the committee to determine things like cost of living, housing, and other expenses associated with serving in their community. Every church should do what is fair!

Far too often the church wants to use a discussion of salary to express their displeasure with the job that the pastor is doing or to simply communicate they think it is time for a change. The conversation can quickly turn into a debate about the individual as opposed to what is fair. Starve him out is a very unchristian attitude that some churches have taken because they lack the courage to speak face to face on the issues. **No communication!** If the pastor is not doing the job you expect him to do, then address those issues with him. I would venture to say that there are no overpaid pastors in our Convention. There may be a few that are underworked, but this is normally the result of unclear or uncommunicated expectations.

By providing less than a fair wage, you are saying that money and not issues is the focus of your concern. It is interesting to note that seldom is money the real issue in a problem, and a church must be willing to admit and address the real problems. If you withhold support to the position of

pastor, then you have not addressed the problem. Further, you create a sense of resentment in the pastor because you are not withholding money from him...you are making it impossible for him to provide for his family and those he loves. None of us want to be in that position.

How can a church experience spiritual or numerical growth in this environment? It can't! However, with a small committee, it is easier for the pastor to express his needs and it is less difficult to develop a consensus within the group to formulate a recommendation to the congregation.

Finally, when the recommendation is presented to the congregation, the finance committee must be willing to explain, and if necessary, defend their actions. A well-conceived and thought out package developed by a committee elected by the church usually encounters little, if any, objection and this goes a long way to minimizing the potential conflict which results when the church body squares off into two separate camps with one side winning while the entire church loses.

A committee, whether it is building, education, or finance, staffed with qualified individuals, makes the church's job much easier and they provide an opportunity for in-depth discussions that will help the church move forward. ■



*Celebrating 125 Years of Service  
to Original Free Will Baptists*

# GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING MATERIAL FOR PRINTING

## Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

According to the 1983 charter, the FWB Press Foundation exists for the following purpose:

"The purposes for which the corporation is organized are: to write, edit, print, publish and distribute any and all religious and educational literature for the Free Will Baptist denomination, including, but not limited to, Sunday school quarterlies, teachers' quarterlies, magazines, religious books, periodicals, newspapers, tracts, leaflets and posters of the denomination; church programs; schedules; minutes of the church, union, conference or convention meetings; hymnals; and other such religious and educational materials and miscellaneous printing as the Board of Directors shall deem desirable for us by the Free Will Baptist or other denomination." (*Restated Charter Articles of Incorporation of Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Incorporated*, Book 22, Page 535).

The Free Will Baptist Press Foundation operates as a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists as described in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*: "All institutions, auxiliaries and enterprises, born because of the recognized need by the denomination and authorized by the parent body are to adhere to the denomination principles and to be servants of the denomination" (111–112). As such we are bound to uphold the principles established in the *Free Will Baptist Church Covenant* (31–32).

All materials submitted for printing should reflect the general principles given above. Materials in conflict with these principles will be returned to the client who originally submitted the material. Normally, clients may choose to edit the materials to reflect these principles and resubmit them to the Press for reconsideration. In cases where the basic philosophy expressed in the material is in direct conflict with the principles under which the Press operates, the Press may return materials and not consider any future revisions. All materials returned to clients will indicate which situation applies.

These guidelines apply to all material printed by the FWB Press, including but not limited to the following: Free Will Baptist literature, and publications, book printing (fiction and nonfiction), advertising, programs, newsletters, and business forms.

The Editor, in consultation with the Executive Director and Board Chair, will make decisions as to whether submitted material is acceptable under the guidelines. Exceptions to these guidelines can be made only with the agreement of the Editor, the Executive Director, and the Board Chair on a case by case basis.

(Note: These guidelines have been adopted by the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.)

To assist clients in determining whether material fits our principles, the Press has established the following specific guidelines:

**1** All materials should reflect a Christian viewpoint. Materials which by their nature do not contain any religious references (advertising, business forms, etc.) should not express any philosophy in conflict with the conservative Christian view. Materials should not condone any religious views which conflict directly with *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.

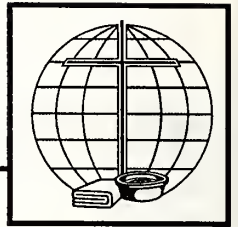
**2** All materials should avoid questionable or suggestive language.

**3** All materials should avoid "all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, the abuse of drugs" (*Articles of Faith* 31). In cases in which alcohol and/or drugs are mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such behavior is unacceptable. Under no circumstances can such behavior be portrayed as desirable or acceptable.

**4** All materials should avoid the approval of any questionable sexual relationship. In cases in which any sexual activity or relationship outside of marriage is mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such behavior is unacceptable. Under no circumstances can such behavior be portrayed as desirable or acceptable. Materials should avoid any overly suggestive or descriptive portrayals of sexual tension and/or activity even within the marriage relationship.

**5** All materials should avoid the approval of New Age philosophy, the occult (including witchcraft, fortune-telling, tarot cards, etc.) In cases in which such ideas are mentioned, it is vital that the reader understand that such philosophies and behaviors are unacceptable.





## Church Honors

### Mr. Ernest Whitson

submitted by Carolyn Reynolds

The people of Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Roper, NC, honored Mr. Ernest Whitson with a birthday party after church on March 14, 1998, to celebrate his 79th birthday.

Brother Ernest along with his wife, Beulah F. Whitson, have been faithful and dedicated members of Mt. Zion for many years. Brother Ernest has served the church in many positions over the years and has been a deacon since 1975.



*Mr. Ernest Whitson with birthday cake.*

## Mid-Year Banquet Held

The North Carolina Ministerial Association held its Mid-Year Spiritual Life Banquet on March 20, 1998, at Daniels Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Black Creek, NC. The annual event is attended by the ministers and their wives. After a delicious meal prepared by the ladies of the church, everyone gathered in the church for a service of gospel music presented by the New Life Singers of Daniels Chapel. The president of the Association is the Rev. Harold Swinson, pastor of Free Union Church, Pinetown, NC.



*The New Life Singers*

## Life Membership Award Presented

submitted by Dot Blair, President, Marlboro Woman's Auxiliary

Mrs. Estelle Hobgood was recently honored with a life membership award by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Marlboro Free Will Baptist Church, Farmville, NC. She was recognized and presented the Auxiliary membership pin on Sunday, March 22, during the morning worship service.

Mrs. Hobgood has been a member of the Marlboro Church for fifty-one years and a loyal and devoted member of the Woman's Auxiliary since it was first started many years ago. She has served the Auxiliary as President, Program Chairperson, and is presently holding the office of Benevolence Chairperson. In addition to her work with the Auxiliary, she participates in many other activities of the church. She is an inspiration to those who know her.

## Pastor Appreciation Day

On Sunday, March 29, 1998, Stony Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Middlesex, NC, held its annual Pastor Appreciation Day. This was the perfect opportunity for the members of the church, as well as others, to express their appreciation for all the Pastor, the Rev. Lewis Forsythe, and also his family, do for the church. The church service began with many thanks from the congregation to the Pastor, and also to the Pastor's wife, that often go unsaid. After the sermon we gathered in the fellowship hall for lunch.

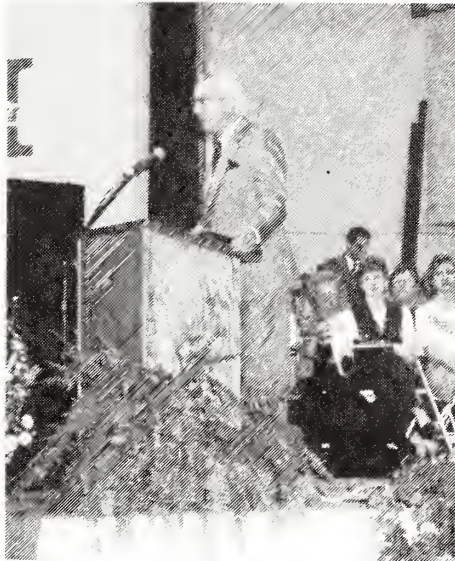


## ***Midway Community Participates in Crusade***

The members of several local churches in the Midway Community in Sampson County gathered together for an area-wide Total Life Evangelistic Crusade held at Midway High School, near Spivey's Corner, from March 29 through April 2, 1998.

The Total Life Crusade was led by Evangelist Wayne Bristow of Bristow International Ministries of Edmond, Oklahoma. The Rev. Bristow led the worship services each night and held special emphasis events for children and young people. Music Evangelist Steve Shirk directed the 200 member crusade choir and ministered with special music at each service. The average attendance of the 5-day event was over 750 nightly, with well over 1000 present on Wednesday night, the special emphasis night for area youth. The youth were treated to a Pizza Blast before the worship service, and 275 young people attended the affair. Over 300 decisions were made, with 98 professions of faith being made for the week. Those who made decisions were counseled by personal workers and introduced to a local pastor.

Ten area churches sponsored this crusade as part of their evangelistic outreach programs. Sponsoring churches were Spring Branch Baptist Church, Baptist Chapel Church, Clement Baptist Church, Lee's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Robert's Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Mingo Baptist Church, Freedom Baptist Church, Shady Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Piney Green Baptist Church and Mt. Elam Baptist Church.



*The Rev. Bristow preaching God's Word.*



*The Rev. Shirk leading the crowd in song.*

## ***Spring Revival at Powhatan***

by Rita Jones



*Linda Jackson, President of Cape Fear Conference Ladies Auxiliary, and Betty Strickland, Secretary, review information during a break at the April 4th Convention at Powhatan.*

Spring revival was held at Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, during the week of April 6-10. The Rev. Billy Nowell, who pastored here from 1979-81, was our speaker. He shared memories of his previous time with us. Tuesday was "Youth Night" and the Youth Choir provided our music. The Youth Group from Pleasant Grove visited and performed a special mime interpretation of the birth, life, and death of Jesus. It was a night and week of blessings.

The April 4 Cape Fear Conference Ladies Auxiliary Convention was hosted by Powhatan with a morning of worship, business, and fellowship. A noon meal was shared in the Fellowship Hall following the meeting. That evening, the Conference Youth Rally was held at Pleasant Grove with a pizza party for the youth. Trophies were given out and the names of youth who would be representing the Conference at the State Youth Convention in May were announced. Four young ladies from Powhatan will be going to the event at Mount Olive College: Ashley Gordan, Cherub Talent; Crystal McLeod, AFC Talent; Nikki Jones, AFC Christian Writing; and Lyndsay Carroll, AFC Public Speaking. Powhatan again had the most youth in attendance, but the banner had not yet been returned for us to bring back and display. Congratulations to all the youth group members.



## People & Events

### *Spring Revival at Powhatan Cont....*

An Easter morning sunrise service was held in the church cemetery. The traditional thirty pieces of silver offering was taken during the Sunday morning worship service which was followed by a communion service. Many Powhatan members attended an evening of worship in song at Everett Chapel in Clayton (since Powhatan did not have an evening service) where the *Smith Family* performed.

A Ladies Auxiliary Study Course was held on April 15 with Diana Nowell Bowman as the speaker. Her topic was Prayer and Obedience. There were around fifty participants with eight churches represented; all enjoyed the fellowship in the Word.

Congratulations to Frank and Ann Narron who celebrated 17 years of marriage in April; also to the April 19 baptism candidates — Tiffany Benson, Justin Garr, Carol Blinson, and Brandon Narron (the latter two are rededications). Praise the Lord and pray for their growth in Christ.

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 22 for all ages. All are invited to attend and share the adventure!



*Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the District Convention on April 4th.*

**Special Prayer Request and Memorium:** Please remember the family of Janet Jones of Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church in Clayton. Her mother, Avis Wood Dorsey, 84, passed away the end of March. Mrs. Dorsey was a member of White Level Church of God and is survived by two daughters, two sons, a sister, 11 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Janet's sister, Cyrethia Upchurch of Rolesville, has just been diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. Lift her and her family up in your prayers.

## *Smith's New Home Honors Oldest Active Member*

submitted by Annie Ruth Parrish

Sunday, April 26, 1998, was a special Sunday in the life of Smith's New Home Church. Mrs. Bessie Whaley Howard, our oldest active member celebrated her 90th birthday.

During the morning service a dedication was held for porch rails given by Mrs. Bessie's family in her honor. These were recently installed at our church entrance. After the service, she invited the entire church family, plus several relatives and friends, to join her and her immediate family in a delicious meal of barbecue and all the trimmings, her favorite meal.

Mrs. Bessie was born April 25, 1908. She joined Smith's New Home at the age of fourteen, seventy-six years ago, and has been an active member since. She was instrumental in raising funds for Eureka College, which was located in Ayden. She worked diligently in fundraisers for our present sanctuary and its furnishings. The church records show that Mrs. Bessie served as a delegate to many conventions and Union Meetings. She also served on many local committees. Now, she is as active as her health permits.

Mrs. Bessie was one of nine children born to Felix and Serena Whaley. All are deceased except her and her brother, Clayton Whaley. Mr. Felix, her father, was one of the early founders of Smith's New Home Church.

In 1929, Mrs. Bessie married Adolph Howard. To this union were born three daughters, Jessie Lee Harper, Shirley Cauley, Adelpia Davenport and one son, Adolph Jr. She has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Bessie's greatest ambition was and is to be a Christian citizen, giving her best to her family, her church and her community. She always has a kind word and a smile for everyone.

We, the members of Smith's New Home Church accept with gratitude the rails given in honor of Mrs. Bessie Howard by her family and trust these rails will be a service and blessing to many in the years ahead.



*Mrs. Bessie Howard standing by rails her family donated to Smith's New Home Church, in her honor, on her 90th birthday.*



### Pastor Installed

On April 26, 1998, the Rev. Harry C. Grubbs was officially installed as pastor of Ayden Free Will Baptist Church. With his wife, Doris, by his side, and with the congregation's participation, all parties pledged themselves to "...assist in building the kingdom of God..." through the fellowship and ministry of Ayden Church. The Service of Installation was led by the Rev. C. H. Overman, a member of the Ayden Church.

The Rev. Grubbs actually began his ministry with the Ayden Church more than eighteen months ago, as interim pastor. The members were thus very pleased when he agreed to become the pastor on a regular basis, and feel that the church is beginning to experience a time of spiritual renewal. This is evident in the fellowship and involvement of its members.

Mr. Grubbs was born in Perry, FL, to Herman A. and Lillian K. Grubbs, the second of six boys and two girls. Four of his brothers are Free Will Baptist ministers. The other brother is a school teacher-principal. One sister is a registered nurse and the other is a clinical psychologist. His father was also a Free Will Baptist minister.

He is a graduate of Mount Olive College. He received his B.A. from Atlantic Christian College, his M. Div. from



Southeastern Baptist Seminary, and five units of Clinical Pastoral Education from Pitt County Memorial Hospital. He has served as pastor of several Free Will Baptist churches, including the First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, NC, for eight years. In addition to his pastoral duties, he also serves as Chaplain at East Correctional Institution, Maury, NC, and also Chaplain of the North Carolina Army National Guard with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Mrs. Grubbs is a public school teacher.

The Grubbs have two children, Gina Nichelle Grubbs and Jody Harold Grubbs; Gina is married to Donald Scott Cannon and they have a son, Hunter Scott who was born November 28, 1997.

In addition to the Installation Service, a reception was held during the afternoon to honor the Rev. and Mrs. Grubbs.



*Everyone enjoying food at the reception.*

## ATTENTION PLEASE!

Fact: Young people influence young people. What if there was a ministry where young people sang for Jesus, gave testimony about Jesus, did short devotions, and some occasional Biblical skits. What a Christian influence this would be to other young people. This is what an "Open Arms" youth rally is all about. Young people are often won to the Lord by the influence of young people who love the Lord.

If you or your church would be interested in such a rally or need more information, call Glenn Mills 919-735-3916 or Open Arms Ministry 919-736-2929.





**Holly Springs  
Free Will Baptist Church**  
Newport, North Carolina

Presents

**MASTER PLAN**  
Mens Conference

*A Plan designed for Men today to reclaim  
their role in the family and to provide  
them with the  
"Fundamentals of a Solid Foundation"*

**June 13, 1998**  
**1:30 PM**

*A Dinner Banquet will be held  
after services at 6:00 PM*

*Pre-registration requested.*

*For more information, please contact  
Matthew Hagan at (919)223-2282.*



**MINISTERS  
PLEASE NOTE!**

Registration forms for the Cragmont Ministers' Conference, June 15-18, 1998, are to be returned to:

The Rev. Doug Skinner  
817 Lynn Road  
Durham, NC 27703

**TO ALL MINISTERS OF THE  
CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE  
WILL BAPTIST**

The Executive Committee of the North Carolina Ministerial Association wishes to invite you to attend the Minister's Conference at Cragmont Assembly on June 15-18, 1998. This is our annual meeting and we would like for you to attend. If you plan to attend, please fill in the pre-registration form found below. The cost of the pre-registration is \$35.00 per person, this will cover your registration and the cost of a picture for the week. We have planned a very special program this year so be sure to make every effort to attend.

Make all checks payable to **NORTH CAROLINA MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION** and mail your money and form to:

Doug Skinner  
817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703

Please return this form by June 8, 1998  
Pre-registration for Minister's Conference  
June 15-18, 1998

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the building you prefer. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis!

\_\_\_\_ Main Building    \_\_\_\_ Motel    \_\_\_\_ Floyd House  
\_\_\_\_ Dorm    \_\_\_\_ I will be staying off campus

Do you have any existing health problems that would prevent you from being on the second floor of the Main Building? \_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_ No

Please indicate in the space below those with whom you wish to room with if you will be staying in the Main Building or the Motel:

Please Note: All wives who stay on campus will room in the dorm behind the dining hall. \_\_\_\_ Check here if your wife will be staying on campus.

If you are unable to attend our Conference this year and you wish to join our Ministerial Association or renew your membership, please send \$30 membership fees to: Doug Skinner, 817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703.

## Youth Frontier Conference

AFC Week

Cragmont Assembly July 6-11, 1998

Come join the excitement at AFC week this year. AFC Conference at Cragmont is for youth ages 8-12. This year our week will be filled with Bible study, games, activities, music, and lots and lots of fun. We will be going to Ogie's Water Park this year for our trip. The cost is \$185.00 for the week. To make sure you are one of those who attend AFC Week, mail your application and a \$85 registration fee as soon as possible. Letters explaining what you need to carry to camp will be sent when your application fee is received. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 919-746-7850 or 919-746-3534. I hope to see you this summer.

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration form and fee to: Frankie Baggett  
5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Ayden, NC 28513  
Please make checks out to AFC Conference.

## Cragmont Woman's Conference

August 3-8, 1998

Speaker, Becky Jo Sumner

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of those you would like to room:

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:  
Teresa M. Ball

6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd, Ayden, NC 28530

A balance of \$120.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip is being planned (approximate cost \$65.00), and there will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville at \$5.00 each. Please make your plans now to join us.

## People & Events

*God's Basic Training!*

## YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE

### YFA WEEK

Cragmont Assembly June 29 - July 4, 1998  
For Those Ages 13 and Up

There will be:

1. Lots of young people!
2. Counselors who care.
3. Bible studies, dorm devotions, vespers.
4. Trips, fun times, "happening" events, and lots of excitement.
5. Music, new friends, and more than we have room to describe!

YFAers will soon be traveling to Cragmont Assembly to attend the 1998 Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week. YFA Week is unique because it is the only encampment at Cragmont planned for just teenagers. This encampment is a time of fun and fellowship, a time of soul-searching and inspiration. This year's encampment is June 29-July 4.

The 1998 theme focuses on **God's Basic Training!** Our program will feature concentrated Bible study and an emphasis on discipleship, recreation, missions/evangelism, and much more. The week will be a friendship/discipleship event, with the purpose of beginning or continuing the process of discipleship development in the lives of youth. And, during the week we also plan to spend a day at Carowinds!

To make sure that you are among those who attend YFA Week, please mail the application below soon! Send the application with a \$100 registration fee. Letters explaining what you need to carry to camp will be sent when your registration fee is received. The total cost of camp is \$200. Checks should be made payable to Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week.

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration form and fee to: Janie Sowers  
Box 824, Middlesex, NC 27557; (919) 325-2408.



## People & Events

### *Festival '98 with Franklin Graham*

---

Among the schedule of activities pertaining to the up-coming Franklin Graham Crusade, to be held September 27-30, 1998, at East Carolina University's Dowdy Ficken Stadium, Greenville, NC, the Christian Life and Witness Classes, held during the month of May, have been the most successful. Throughout the month, sessions were held in various churches in different towns and communities, with hundreds enrolling in the classes. In order to be a counselor during the Crusade, it was required to attend at least three of the four classes. Pastors were required to take two of the four classes and complete an application.

Following is the schedule of events from June 1 - August 9.

| <u>Scheduled Date</u>             | <u>Event</u>                                                                                                                               | <u>Location</u>                                                        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, June 2<br>8:00-10:30 AM  | Pastor's and O.A. Leaders Breakfast<br>Guest Speaker: The Rev. Sammy Agnew                                                                 | The Hilton<br>207 SW Greenville Blvd.<br>Greenville, NC                |
| Sunday, June 7                    | Operation Andrew Sunday<br>The pastor speaks on the principle<br>of being an active Andrew<br>Materials: Operation Andrew Insert           | All Churches                                                           |
| Thursday, June 18<br>7:30-9:00 PM | Rally (Operation Andrew Emphasis)<br>Guest Speaker: Dr. Steve Lawson<br>Special Music: Babbie Mason                                        | Community Christian Church<br>1104 N. Memorial Drive<br>Greenville, NC |
| Sunday, June 28                   | Choir Recruitment Sunday                                                                                                                   | All Churches                                                           |
| Thursday, July 9<br>7:30-9:00 PM  | Rally (with the Billy Graham Team)<br>Guest Speaker: Dr. Tom Phillips<br>Special Music: Larnell Harris with<br>Tom Bledsoe and Ted Cornell | Community Christian Church<br>1104 N. Memorial Drive<br>Greenville, NC |
| Sunday, July 12                   | Operation Andrew Sunday<br>The Pastor emphasizes the principle<br>of being an active Andrew<br>Materials: Prayer Triplet                   | All Churches                                                           |
| Tuesday, July 21<br>7:30-9:00 PM  | Prayer Rally<br>Guest Speaker: Dr. Ike Reighard                                                                                            | Philippi Church of Christ<br>1610 Farmville Blvd.<br>Greenville, NC    |
| Saturday, August 1<br>8:00 AM     | Men's Breakfast<br>Guest Speaker: Tom Landry                                                                                               | Williams Arena: Minges Coliseum<br>ECU: Greenville, NC                 |

#### **Festival Office**

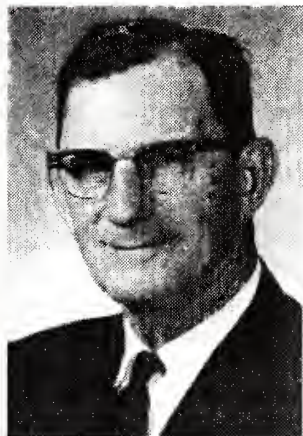
300 14th Street • Post Office Box 1614  
Greenville, North Carolina 27835  
Office Phone: 252-413-0925 Fax: 252-413-0926

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## Obituary

### Harvey T. Hinson

*The Daily Record, Dunn, NC, Tuesday, April 14, 1998*



*Harvey Thomas Hinson*

Harvey Thomas Hinson, 94, of Golden Years Nursing Home, Falcon, formerly of Route 2, Dunn, NC, died Monday night after several years of declining health.

The Sampson County native was a son of the late William B. and Dora Wilson Hinson. He operated H. T. Hinson Store on Route 2, Dunn, for over 48 years. Active

in community affairs, he had served on the Plain View School Board, had been a Sampson County Commissioner for 16 years and had been a federal magistrate. He was instrumental in the formation of the Plain View Fire Department and Rescue Squad. He had served on the Board of Directors of Dunn Production Credit Association in Dunn and also on the board of the Federal Land Bank in Clinton. He was a member of Mingo Masonic Lodge #206 and the Woodmen of the World.

At the time of his death, he was the oldest member of Lee's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church and had served it in several capacities including deacon and church clerk. For many years he was the clerk and secretary of the Cape Fear Free Will Baptist Conference.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Vada W. Hinson, and a son, Thomas Hinson of Raleigh.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 15 at 2 PM at Lee's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church by the Revs. Phillip Boykin, Henry Armstrong, and Danny Powell. Burial, with Masonic honors was in the Williford Cemetery.

Survivors include three sons, Gene Hinson and David Hinson, both of Raleigh, and Jimmy Hinson of Dunn; a daughter, Marjorie H. Tart of 595 Hinson Road, Dunn; a sister, Bertha H. Godwin of Golden Years Nursing Home in Falcon; 19 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

## CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. Clifford B. Harwood is available for Supply or Bi-vocational pastorate. He may be contacted at 919-242-6218.

The Rev. A. B. Bryan, of Wayne County, is available for Pastoral or Supply Work. He may be contacted at 231 Five Points Rd, Dudley, NC. 28333 or call 919-736-8996.

The Rev. Richard Glosson is available for full-time pastoral work or as a supply pastor. He may be contacted at 606 S. Caswell St., LaGrange, NC 28551 or call 919-566-3424.

The Rev. C. T. Tucker of Johnston County is available for Pastoral or Supply Work. He may be contacted at 701 Holding St., Clayton, NC 27520 or call 919-550-9326.

The Rev. Dan Jordan is available for full-time or part-time pastoral work. He may be contacted at 104 N. Boulevard, Clinton, NC 28328 or call 910-529-0201.

The Rev. James Warren is available for pastoral supply or fill-in work. He may be contacted at 649 Poplar St., Kinston, NC 28504 or call 919-527-1648.

The Rev. Robert F. Burke is available as supply pastor and revivals. He may be contacted at 1196 Jefferson Road, Pinetown, NC 27865 or call 919-927-2041.

The Rev. Clifford Ball is available for pastoral services. He may be contacted at 6138 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530 or call 919-524-4337.

A bi-Vocational Pastor is needed for Russell Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, Carteret County, NC. Contact Mrs. Leona T. Ingram at 269 Ingram Road, Beaufort, NC 28516 or call (252) 728-3087 or Mrs. Esther S. Merrell at PO Box 1178, Beaufort, NC 28516 or call (252) 728-2310.

The Oriental Original Free Will Baptist Church, Oriental, NC, is seeking a pastor. Consideration will be given to full time or bi-vocational applicants. For more information contact Charles Mason, 919-249-1751 or Mike Styron, 919-249-1786.

First Free Will Baptist Church Wilson is in need of an Associate Pastor to work with primary and youth, dead line June 30. Call 252-291-6446 or write First Free Will Baptist Church Wilson, PO Box 549, Wilson, NC 27893.



# The Bible's Influence on Amy

by Katherine Cahoon, Sound Side Free Will Baptist Church, Columbia, NC  
Albemarle District — AFC — Fiction

One day there was a girl named Amy. She lived on Green Street. Her parents were Jamie and Harry Markham. In their jobs they did not make much money but they were wealthy with love. Amy did not have many things but maybe two or three dolls. However, she knew her birthday was coming up and the thing she wanted most was a book. She and her mom walked by a store and there was the book Amy wanted. Then she stopped and read the name, "The Bible." She said, "Wow, I like that one! Oh mom, that is what I want more than anything in the world." Then Mrs. Markham said, "OK sweetie, maybe we will be able to afford it." Then they walked on. Suddenly Amy stopped. Her mom asked her what was wrong, but she said nothing. Then Amy spoke. "I just felt Someone talking to me." Amy was ten years old and wanted to know more about the Lord.

Later that evening Amy went for a walk. She walked right past the store with the Bible in it. She said, "Oh no, the book is gone." She started to run home and then she realized that it wasn't that bad because her mother could have bought it for her or someone else could have bought it. So when she got home Amy asked her mom if she had bought that book for her. Her mother replied, "I don't know. It's a surprise." Amy said "Okay," then went to her room, and started to read a book. Then she looked out her window. There it was, the same book. "Oh no, it's the Bible in the trash can. I need to turn it in to the owner." So she told her mom where she was going but her mother said, "I am going with you." When they got to the store they gave it to the merchant. The merchant said, "Young lady, where did you get this?" "I found it in the trash can," answered Amy. The merchant said, "Thanks for bringing it here."

The merchant asked Amy if she would like to have that Bible. Amy replied, "Why, yes I would." The merchant said, "I will give it to you at half price since you were honest and you brought it here." Amy's mother said, "If that is what you want for your birthday then that is what you will get." Amy said, "Yes mom, that is what I want." Mrs. Markham asked about the price of the Bible and found out it was 20 bucks but that Amy could have it for 10 bucks. Mrs. Markham bought the Bible.

Amy's birthday was only two days away. Amy said, "I cannot wait!" Her mother

wrapped her present that night. Finally it was Amy's birthday. She got the Bible and she also got a lot of love. She wished that her family would love one another forever. She had a cake, ice cream, and some soft drinks, and said that was her best birthday ever. But she kept thinking about who would put a Bible in a trash can. "It is so valuable," she thought.

"Mom, I have a question?" Amy asked. "Do you know who put the Bible in the trash can?" Her mother replied, "No dear I don't. I just know that you were truthful to turn the Bible in. I mean you could have kept it." "No, I couldn't keep it," said Amy. "I love the Lord and I don't want to steal anything. Mom, I am going for a walk." "Okay dear," her mother replied. So Amy walked and walked. Then she saw a gang. It was not a bad gang, just a gang. The gang started talking about a book and doing things to hurt people's stuff. So Amy asked them what kind of book they were talking about. Someone called it a Bible. Amy said, "Yea, well that Bible is very important." "It is?" responded the gang leader named John. "Yes," answered Amy. "Haven't you ever heard of Jesus?" "No, who is He?" asked John. Amy replied, "He died for you and me and everyone. So I think you should go to that store, apologize to the merchant and tell her that you stole the Bible and put it in the trash can." John agreed to do that, so John and Amy walked to the store. John told the merchant all about the Bible incident and she thanked him for being honest. Amy said bye to the merchant and walked out with John. Amy said good bye to John. He thanked her for telling him about Jesus. "That really changed my life," John said.

Amy said, "You're welcome," and walked home. When she got home she told her mother about the good deed she had done. Her mother was very proud of her and said, "Amy, you always take great care of things and you always get people to do the right things." "Well Mom," said Amy, "I like to tell people about Jesus because I love Him, and I like to read about Him. When I read about Him in the Bible it makes me feel as though I am there." Mom replied, "That happens sometimes sweetie." "Well, what I have learned from my life is that you always tell the truth even if you are in a bad position," said Amy. "That's great," said Amy's mom. "I think I am raising a wonderful child!"

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Editor's Note:  
For the next several issues of *The Free Will Baptist* we will publish the "Christian Writing" essay winners from the various district Youth Conventions.

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### **Gleanings from the 1970 Issues of *The Free Will Baptist***

It was announced at the midyear meeting of the North Carolina Ministerial Association of Free Will Baptists that the Rev. C. L. Patrick, pastor of the Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg, was the recipient of the Minister of the Year Award. This award is sponsored by the North Carolina Ministerial Association for the purpose of giving each church an opportunity to recognize its pastors for his services and to give statewide recognition to a minister who has done outstanding work during the year.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Plans are underway to begin developing our Camp, Cragmont Assembly, Inc. On January 5, 1970, the stockholders approved general plans for development. The long-range plan calls for four cottages, a dining hall, a chapel, a swimming pool, and a recreational area. However, the most immediate need is the two cottages.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The Free Will Baptist Press announced the opening of New Bern Bookstore, located at 213 Middle Street. Grand opening is scheduled for April 14-17, 1970.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The Virginia Beach Free Will Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia, had its beginning about five years ago with 18 charter members. It remained a mission church until March 5, 1969, at which time the officials of the Albemarle Conference of North Carolina organized the group into a church. Today the present membership has grown to 239. A \$100,000.00 building program has recently been completed. The pastor is the Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark.

#### **Quality Church Furnishings - Floor Coverings and Church Equipment**

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Church Pews - Steeples - Windows - Chairs  
Cushions - Choir Robes - Baptisries - Tables  
Pulpits - Pew Padding and Re-upholstery



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*Ask about our easy payment programs!*

***We Specialize in Church Carpets @ Mill Prices!***





# THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens*

"Mid pleasures and palaces, though we may roam,  
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home"  
(John Howard Payne).



## HOME

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

"I'm home!" These were the first words that filled my mind when I sat down to write my thoughts upon a return from the hospital.

"Home" — there is no more tender or more meaningful word in our language. It speaks to our innermost being about the deepest meaning of life in both this world and the next. Our definitions may differ but the feeling of home is universal: love, security and happiness.

Before children can speak, they know the meaning of love from their relationship with their parents, and it is this relationship which gives home its meaning. In later life, if things turn out different than we expected, as in Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, we know that the best steps we can take are those which lead home. And when the years have been spent, there is no place we had rather be than home.

What is it about home that endears it to us from infancy to our golden years?

### The Meaning of Family

Bud Baker, Chief Executive Officer of Wachovia, expressed the experience of many parents and grandparents in a special message to the personnel of his bank when he wrote: "I returned home recently to find that my children had moved away. 'Where are they?' I wailed. 'They are gone. They all moved away and no one told me.' My wife, a school teacher and not much inclined to pamper fools, said, 'Get control of yourself. They left while you were at work.'"

"Of course all this happened over a number of years," Baker continued. "Our children grew older, became adults, and gingerly bounded right out of the nest. They are still our children, still good friends and still part of the family."

Many senior citizens know the feeling of Baker. In the summer of our lives it is easy to become so absorbed in our work that we become unaware of how rapid the years are passing. By the time our children enter the fourth grade in school, they are nine years old, which is half the time we can anticipate their being a full-rime resident in our home. In nine more years they will be off to college,

entering employment, getting married and the focus of their lives will shift from our home to theirs.

What is success? The business and professional world may measure it in terms of our work, but for parents there is another standard of measurement — our family. All our achievements at work can be deeply dimmed if we fail at home. It may well be that the most significant changes in American life during the Twentieth Century were not in communications, transportation and technology but in what has happened to family life.

### Our Highest Joy

Home is not so much a place as it is relationships, and it is though these relationships that we experience the highest joys of our lives.

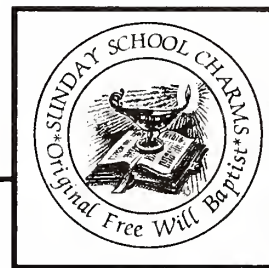
Consider the tug Christmas has on our hearts. At no other time of the year do our hearts yearn more for home. The best selling recording of all time, "I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas," made by Bing Crosby during World War II, captured the sentiment of millions of families with members in the military who could not come home. This feeling for home is tenderly expressed in music of all seasons, from "Home On The Range" and "My Old Kentucky Home," to the words of "Going Home" by the theme of Dvorak's New World Symphony.

It is reported that during a long winter in the Civil War when there was a lull in the fighting, the Northern and Southern armies were encamped in Virginia on opposite sides of the Rappahannock River in full view of each other. One evening the Yankee bands came down to play for their troops. As the darkness descended, the Confederates called across the river, "Now play some of ours." After playing several Southern favorites, the bands struck up "Home, Sweet Home." Both armies joined in the singing until they choked up. For a brief moment, the two armies which were bent on destroying each other found their hearts welded together in thoughts of home.

Nothing turns our thoughts homeward more than the traumatic experiences of life. No other relationships — whether social, business or professional — reach so deeply into our lives as do the ties of family — regardless of our age, we never outgrow our feeling for home.

1998 (Vol. 3, No. 8) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



## Attends Convention

by Cathy Crumpler

In March I attended the Mid Atlantic Christian Education Association Convention in Greenville, South Carolina. The theme for the Convention was "Returning to Your First Love." As Christian men, women and children who serve God by serving His people, we must first remember the reason for this service: our "First Love" — Jesus. Our love of God is first and the very reason we have a burden for others. We should never be so involved in service that we forget our "First Love."

During the Convention and many workshops, I met numerous people who work in all phases of Christian service in their churches. Every age group and person has specific needs for us to meet and there are as many ways to meet those needs as there are people. I feel our Sunday School Institute each spring helps us with some of those ways. One particular conversation I had was concerning nursery classes in Sunday school. The man was showing me baby t-shirts and bibs that had Cradle Club and a little cherub on them. I thought they were interesting since recently we had had a baby shower in our church. He said that when the Nursery class had a new member to attend they would give them a t-shirt or bib as a welcome. I thought that was nice and especially good to welcome new additions to the church or visitors with little ones. The main thing that impressed me about this type of ministry was that he said he was brought to Christ through this ministry. He said someone cared for his child and showed it. Sometimes small gestures go a long way. Excitedly, we started this in our Nursery class the last of April.

## *Sarecta Original Free Will Baptist Church News*

Sunday School Superintendent, Jeffrey Jones, presented ten members of Sarecta's Sunday school with perfect attendance pins for the 1997 Sunday school year. Members receiving pins were: Amy and Becky Lanier, 3rd year; Brent Taylor, 12th year; Branden Taylor, 17th year; Dorothy Smith, 18th year; Janice Coile, 20th year; Barbara Smith, 35th year; Mildred Jones, 36th year; Herbert Jones, 37th year; Carol Taylor, 40th year. Carol Taylor has not missed a perfect attendance pin for Sunday school since she has attended Sarecta Church. The late Bill Smith started the family tradition of perfect attendance. Dorothy Smith is his wife and Janice Coile, Barbara Smith and Carol Taylor are his daughters. Branden and Brent Taylor are his grandsons. What a great family tradition. The Rev. Joe Crumpler is the pastor of Sarecta Church just outside of Kenansville, North Carolina.



Back row (left to right): Branden Taylor, Barbara Smith and Janice Coile. Middle row: Brent Taylor, Carol Taylor, Dorothy Smith and Herbert Jones. Front row: Amy Lanier, Becky Lanier and Mildred Jones.

## **For Help with your Sunday School contact:**

Mrs. Mary Dudley  
1770 Will Cunningham Road  
Deep Run, NC 28525  
Phone: (252) 568-3311



# Convention Update

Convention  
of Original  
Free Will Baptists



## COMMITTEES ANNOUNCED

The officers of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, have appointed the Nominating and Resolutions Committees for the 1998 Convention. Appointed to the Nominating Committee were the Revs. Paul Grubbs, Chairman; Al Markuson, Earl Glenn, David Hines, Billy Hardee, Tom Parrish, and Wayne King. The Resolutions Committee will be composed of the Revs. Philip Wood, Chairman; Harold Swinson, Fred Baker, Graham Lane, Jackie Godwin, Austin Carter, De Wayne Eakes.

## Convention Nomination Procedures

An announcement of vacancies to be filled at the 1998 Convention is being made to the boards and committees of the Convention, churches, ministers, and in the *Free Will Baptist*; inviting recommendations. Recommendations must include the name, church, occupation and a short paragraph describing qualifications and/or gifts the person would bring to the board, committee, or office, and the name of the person or group making the recommendation. Recommendations will be received through July 1, 1998. The Nominating Committee will make its decisions, contact persons to be nominated, and prepare a written report for inclusion in the Convention Report Book. In the event the Nominating Committee decides to nominate someone not recommended by a board or director, the director will be consulted and the decision will be discussed.

## VACANCIES TO BE FILLED AT THE 1998 CONVENTION

### OFFICES:

President (2000)

Vice-President (2000)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Cape Fear Conference Representative (2000)

Central Conference Representative (2000)

Eastern Conference Representative (2000)

### CHILDRENS HOME BOARD:

3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2002

### CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1999

### CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY STOCK REPRESENTATIVE:

2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2001

### FOREIGN MISSIONS:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2002

### FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 1999

### HOME MISSIONS:

1 vacancy with the term ending the year 2005

### MINISTERS PROGRAM:

1 vacancy with the term ending in the year 2002

### MT. OLIVE COLLEGE:

5 vacancies with terms ending in 2004

### RETIREMENT MINISTRIES:

2 vacancy with term ending 2003

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

1 vacancy with term ending 2001

### CHAPLAINS COMMISSION:

1 vacancy with term ending 2003

### COMMISSION OF OFWB COLLEGE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS:

1 vacancy with term ending 2001

### HISTORICAL COMMISSION:

1 vacancy with term ending 2001

### LAYMAN'S LEAGUE BOARD:

4 vacancies with terms ending 2001

### SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD:

3 vacancies with terms ending 2001

## RECOMMENDATION FORM

I (We) would like to recommend \_\_\_\_\_

for consideration by the Nominating Committee to fill the vacancy: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following information of the nominee:

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Conference \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications and/or gifts this person would bring to the position:

Signature of Person or Group Making the Recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Mail form to Nominating Committee, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28531. Forms should be postmarked no later than July 1, 1998.)



Dr. Pepper Worthington

## DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Barbara Johnson. *Living Somewhere Between Estrogen and Death*: Word Publishing, 1997. 169 pages.

### Introduction

Barbara Johnson brings humor to the wonder years of menopause and mid-age crisis. Her motto seems to be: "It's easy to find things to complain about as we grow older, but it's so much healthier to *laugh* instead" (9). And what does she offer as a method for laughing? Everything from one-liners to jokes to rearranged modes of thinking. And, most of all, beneath the ebullient humor is her unsinkable bulwark of faith.

### Fat, Labels, and Aging

Coining a new phrase for fat, Mrs. Johnson declares, "I'm not fat, I'm calorically gifted" (41). She tells her friends, "I weigh one hundred and *plenty*" (38). She recommends that all in middle age begin to "exercise and diet to fight hazardous waists" (38).

Weight seems to hit women after menopause and men at middle age. However, she does not believe the fat farm spa or excessive dieting help fight the fat forever. In America, "millions of us are overweight," (29). What are we to do?

Barbara Johnson suggests four things: (1) Learn to eat a healthy diet; (2) Learn to laugh; (3) Accept the inevitable aging process; (4) Reject the labels attached to aging and create your own labels.

When all the milestones of dating, graduation, and wedding, homecoming celebrations or family reunions disappear, why try to lose the fat? "Other priorities pop up — like breathing, for example, or trying not to lose our minds while we wrestle with parents who need to be in a nursing home but refuse to go" (37).

And what about those hideous labels assigned to aging Americans — from senior citizens to geezers (11)? Can we create our own new labels? Of course we can. Mrs. Johnson prefers "mature little girls" (12) or "old biddies" (11).

Aging is a fact. Exercise does add to our sense of well-being and keeps our circulation healthy. To find a form of exercise that works for us in the challenge. She laughs as she reminds us, "Remember, you may be OLDER today than you have ever been before, but you are YOUNGER than you will ever be again!" (57).

### Dreaming and Remembering

As we age, we all know time is running out to fulfill our old dreams. Mrs. Johnson notes: "Perhaps we're starting to think it will never be anything more than a dream — and that even if the dream were do-able, someone else would *do* it, not us. After all, we may tell ourselves, we're getting on in years, and dreams are for younger people" (60).

WAIT! At this point, for women especially between estrogen and death, Mrs. Johnson stresses the fun of "risk-taking," of creating new dreams, developing patterns to grow in "wisdom experience, and character" (62). Johnson robustly encourages: "Be bold, take a chance, do something different, push back a barrier, or, in those cases when you think you're at the end of your rope, KEEP BREATHING" (62).

In addition to dreaming, she suggests drawing strength from precious memories. She notes: "Reminiscing helps us put our lives into perspective. As we get older, we can see how each stage, every memory, fits into the grander scheme of things" (102).

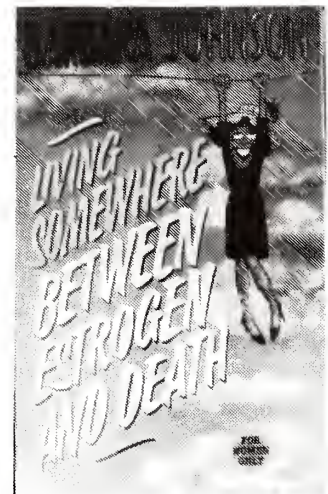
### Death

Barbara Johnson is not afraid of death. She chooses to develop her faith in God as the support for her inevitable "lift off" (147).

To create comfort in the face of inevitable death, she forms a picture of her eternity: "A luxurious palace is waiting for me. My name is already painted on the mailbox! The lights are on, and the table is set. And best of all, the Lord Himself is standing in the doorway, waiting to welcome me!" (151).

### Conclusion

Beneath Barbara Johnson's lighthearted humor is her vigorous awareness of God's presence in all of her life — the serious moments and the tragic ones. She acknowledges: "I've been lifted out of a cesspool by others' kind, encouraging words; in their notes and voices I have heard God speak. When I landed on the ceiling, God handed others a spatula of love to scrape me off and send me on my way again" (158).

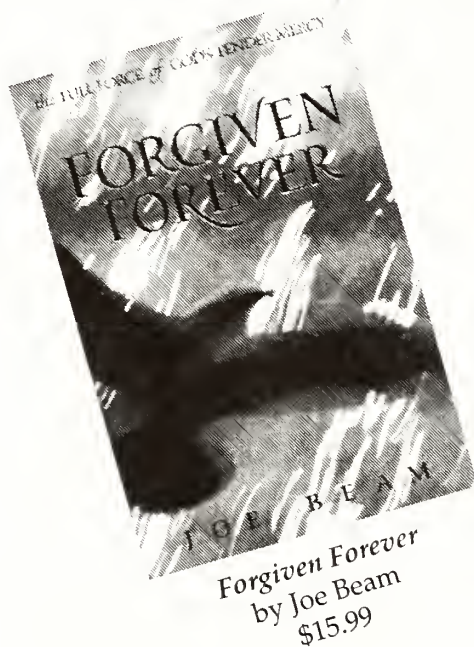


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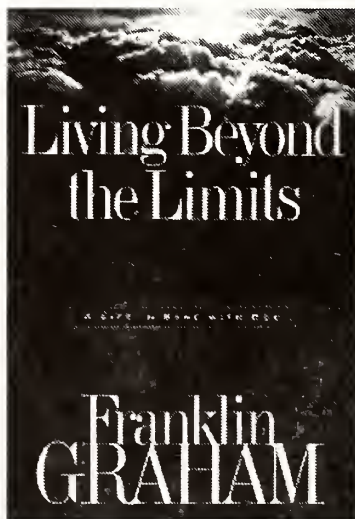


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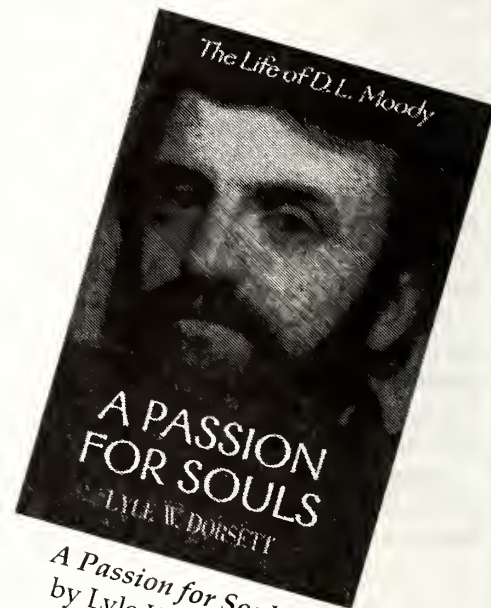
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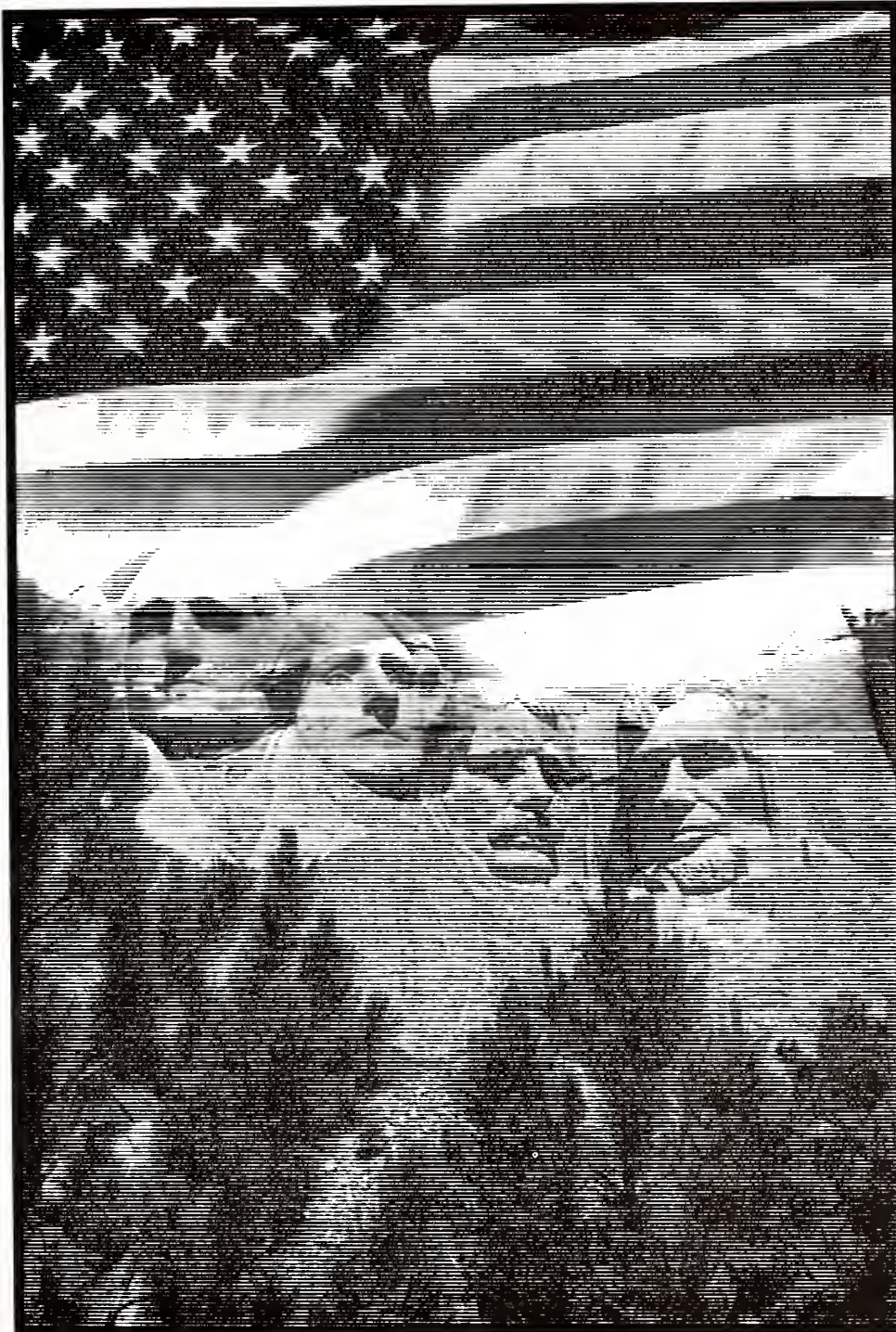
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July 1998

# The Free Will Baptist



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## ***FEATURING:***

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*What's wrong  
with absolutes?*

.....

*The Glory of  
Such Friends*

.....

*North Carolina  
Woman's  
Auxiliary  
Convention*

.....





C. H. Overman

## "...the free exercise thereof..."

The drafting and the approval of our Constitution was not accomplished overnight. After fighting for and gaining independence, our forefathers "hammered" out a written form of government, as drafted in Philadelphia in 1787. At that time there was no Bill of Rights, and many leading Americans feared that without it certain liberties were in jeopardy. Thomas Jefferson, in a letter written to James Madison, wrote: "A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth...and what no just government should refuse or rest on inference." As the process of ratification of the Constitution progressed, "...it was commonly accepted in the states that a bill of rights would be added to the Constitution as soon as the new government was inaugurated. In 1791 the Bill of Rights, containing ten articles of the 12 drafted by Madison, was adopted and ratified by the states." (*Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*, for Macintosh, 1995 Edition.)

The first of these Bill of Rights (Amendment I), states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceable to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

It was not just a coincidence that the first matter considered dealt with freedom of religion. Many of America's first settlers came to this new land to escape from religious persecution. It was their innate right and heartfelt desire to worship according to the dictates of their own consciences, and not according to the demands of the state, or government. Thus, it was decreed that government and religion would be separate in the sense that religion would not be under the control of the state. Congress does not and cannot establish or officially endorse any form of religion and then impose it upon the citizenry.

It is the second clause, however, that is often overlooked — neither is Congress to prohibit, or prevent, the free exercise of religion. Many Christian Americans fear that religious freedom is gradually eroding. The Supreme Court's ruling against prescribed prayer in public schools has served to implant such fears. Americans of a generation ago well remember the times set aside for prayer and devotions in the school classrooms and in general assemblies. Christians should remember, however, that no government can actually stop God's people from praying — at anytime and in any place, — with silent, unspoken words that spring forth from the deep recesses of the soul. It's the idea of government dictating the policies of Christian faith in any form that

disturbs Christians in America.

We sometimes wonder what the founding fathers would say to the modern-day interpretations concerning the freedom of religion and the free exercise of it. What did they mean when they so strongly penned and approved these words? We know they strongly endorsed the principle of separation of church from state control, but not the divorcement of God from government. History books and various writings attest to their Christian beliefs. It was their reliance upon God that prompted their statements of liberty and freedom.

In a letter to Eldridge Gerry, January 28, 1804, Thomas Jefferson wrote: "I am for freedom of religion, and against all maneuvers to bring about a legal ascendancy of one sect over another..."

Concerning religion and morality, our first president, George Washington, in his Farewell Address, stated: "...reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

There is no doubt that Christian convictions determined the early course of this country as expressed in the words of our founding fathers. They were not perfect leaders. Neither are we today; however, like them, we believe that in the pursuit of happiness, our nation must rely on our sovereign God and believe that "Righteousness does exalt a nation..." (Proverbs 14:34). At what ever cost, there must forever be the free exercise of religion if we are to be truly free.

## Mike Scott on Editorial Staff

We are pleased to announce that the Rev. Mike Scott is now serving on the editorial staff of the Free Will Baptist Press. Mike is well known among Free Will Baptists, having been an active pastor for the past twenty-six years, and is presently serving as pastor of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Vanceboro, NC. His work with the Press is on a part-time basis.

For the past two years, Mike has written several Sunday school quarterlies. He is presently serving as a member of the Board of Foreign Missions, Moderator of the Fifth Union of the Eastern Conference, and for more than four years has served the Convention Task Force Committee (Project Solution). We appreciate the service he is rendering to our denomination, and especially to the Press.

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## NEXT MONTH

*August is  
Convention  
Promotion  
Month*

*July is  
Christian Education  
Month*



## What's wrong with absolutes?

*As we celebrate our national Independence may we realize anew that true freedom rest in His divine will and purpose.*

*by the Rev. Mike Scott*

In our society today there tends to be the idea that it is wrong to hurt the feelings of others or to criticize their activities. The pervasive current of our day leans toward the idea of "live and let live"; therefore, people today attempt to mind their own business while encouraging others to do the same. While this is not all bad, isn't it true that as Christians we have been called upon to make an impact upon our society and thereby make an impact upon the lives of the individuals who make up that society?

When Jesus states in the Sermon on the Mount that we are to be "the salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (see Matthew 5:13, 14), isn't He saying that our lives are to be an influence upon those with whom we come in contact? Certainly Jesus Christ Himself attempted to bring about change in the lives of those He met. He declared to the first of His disciples (fishermen) that, "...from henceforth thou shalt catch men" (Luke 5:10). He told Nicodemus, "...Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). He told the woman caught in the act of adultery, "...go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).

The sharpest criticisms that Jesus leveled when He was alive were against the religious leaders of His day (the scribes and the Pharisees). He called them "hypocrites" (Matthew 23:13), "fools and blind" (Matthew 23:17), "blind guides" (Matthew 23:24), "serpents" (Matthew 23:33) and a "generation of vipers" (Matthew 23:33). Truly, Christ made it His business to point out the faults and shortcomings of others.

While we are definitely not Christ,

and while we lack the spiritual insight which He possessed, we have been given a certain amount of discernment. With the Holy Ghost as our guide and the Bible as our authority, we as Christians can look upon the works of society and judge as to whether or not they measure up to the standards of God. This brings us to the question which this article proposes: what's wrong with absolutes? It is this writer's belief that, based upon what God has de-

***An absolute is always relevant no mater what the mores of society or the feeling of people might be.***

clared in His Word, there are absolutes and that these absolutes are as relevant for our society today as they were when they were first penned by the inspired authors of Holy Scripture. Society may have changed; the morals of mankind may have changed; the thinking of people may have changed; but God has not changed. "...I am the Lord, I change not..." He declared through the Prophet Malachi (3:6). The immutabil-

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*Mike is pastor of Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Vanceboro, NC. He is a graduate of Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC; Barton College, Wilson, NC; and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC. He and his wife, Amy, reside in the Oak Grove Community.*

ity of God is stressed time and time again in the Scripture, and indeed James knew of this characteristic when he stated that with Him there "...is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (1:17).

What is an absolute? *Webster's Dictionary* defines the term as, "Free from imperfection: PERFECT; free from mixture: PURE; having no restriction, exception or qualification; UNQUESTIONABLE; FUNDAMENTAL; ULTIMATE." In other words, an absolute is that which does not change because of circumstances or situations. An absolute is always relevant no mater what the mores of society or the feeling of people might be. An absolute is firm and steadfast, and those who tamper with it are subject to judgment and retribution because they dare to change what God has declared to be unchangeable.

God deals in absolutes. With Him there is no double standard for people of different societies. Today we have the idea that because we are standing on the threshold of the twenty-first century, and because we have all of the technological advances that the computer age has brought with it, and because we are the most intellectually and scientifically superior generation in the history of the world, the old fashioned and outdated theology of our grandparents is no longer relevant. How blinded and deceived we are! The Bible is *always* relevant and the teachings of God will *never* diminish in their authority. Isaiah declares, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (40:8). The absolute truths of God have been attacked, ridiculed, rejected and desecrated by societies in days gone by; and these societies and the people who made them up have passed into extinction while the fundamental ideals of God continue to stand. We read of the glory that once belonged to Babylon, Greece, and Rome, and we find that all of these mighty empires toppled because they failed to take into account the reality of God and the fact that He is in command of human history. Those

who dare to oppose the God of the Bible find themselves in the unenviable position of being both judged and condemned by His Word, and of being destroyed by the power of His might.

I submit that the United States of America will fare no differently than the societies of the past if she continues down the road that she has chosen for herself. Either we have forgotten, or we have forsaken altogether, the idea that with God there are absolutes. In the minds of the men and women who make up our society, there is no right or wrong, no black or white. Everything that we do tends to fall into that gray area of indecision and permissiveness. The last verse of the book of Judges states, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (21:25). Isn't this a fitting characterization of our society today; a society in which each person is a law unto himself/herself, free to think and act as he/she pleases without any sense of responsibility or reprisal? Consider the following observations on the moral and spiritual climate of America today.

First of all, there are the moral absolutes of Scripture which have been forsaken. We are called of God to be a holy and Godly people, and to live a life that reflects His moral purity. Any nation that claims God as its Lord is commanded to conform to His standards and to abide by His principles. The Bible exhorts us over and over to live a righteous life:

- Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people (Proverbs 14:34).
- Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing... (2. Corinthians 6:17).
- Abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
- As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (1 Peter 1:14-15).
- But ye are a chosen generation, a

royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people: that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light (1 Peter 2:9).

David declares, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;..." (Psalm 33:12). If God is truly the Lord of our

*The moral decadence of our nation can only be reversed as we turn back to the Bible and to the absolutes which are set forth in its teachings.*

nation, how is it that we consistently defy His authority over our lives?

In Scripture God has decreed that the only acceptable form of sexual expression is between a husband and wife who have been joined and made one by Him — "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4); yet, our society today is inundated with a flood of sexual perversion. The concept of living together outside of the institution of marriage has become so commonplace that it has fallen into acceptance in even the most conservative of circles. Anyone who doesn't accept this situation and dares to speak against it is considered a prude who is out of touch with reality and is holding onto outdated standards that have long ago been forsaken by more enlightened people. We are pitied for our simplistic view of life and ridiculed because we dare to think that the "natural urges" of humanity should be confined only to the vows of marriage. The young people of our society are engaging in sexual activity at an earlier age than ever before in our history and rather than actively seeking to stem the tide of promiscuity, we openly encourage such behaviour by passing out condoms in our schools, enacting legislation whereby teenage girls can seek abortions without the consent of their

parents, and allowing television and motion pictures to portray sexual activity among teens as natural, normal, and acceptable.

Along the same line, the homosexuals have adopted the agenda of forcing their deviant lifestyle upon our society. With a unified and concerted effort, the Sodomites of our day are among other things marching in our streets, introducing bills in our legislatures, seeking ordination in our mainline denominations, insisting on the right for same-sex marriages, infiltrating every aspect of our society; and all of this is being done because (according to them) their lifestyle is as viable as any other and must be accepted as normal. The gay and lesbian activists of our day are bold in their approach and are determined to promote their cause in the state houses, courthouses and church houses of our land. They don't intend to go away, and they do intend on influencing all areas of our society.

God warns through the Prophet Isaiah, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness,..." (5:20). God still has standards and He does expect these standards to be respected. The moral decadence of our nation can only be reversed as we turn back to the Bible and to the absolutes which are set forth in its teachings. What the homosexuals call "acceptable" God calls an "abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). The lax attitude that we have today toward the sexual behaviour of our society will come under the righteous judgment of God. We view ourselves as enlightened and progressive, when in reality we have descended into a pit of sin and perversion that can only lead to sorrow and loss. "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:22). This is the estimation that God has of the society that forsake His eternal truths and choose for themselves a path that is contrary to His will.

Second, there are the spiritual absolutes of God upon which we as a nation have turned our backs. It is the teaching of Scripture that God desires



to have a place in all aspects of our lives. He is not just an entity to which we pay tribute on Sunday mornings and forget the rest of the week; rather, He is an ever-present Reality of which we are to be mindful every second of everyday. It is when we fail to recognize God in our everyday affairs that we drift into a sea of sin and complacency, and that we open up ourselves to the power and the influences of the enemy. God is to have a place in our society, in our government, in our families, in our businesses, in our decisions, as well as in every other area of our lives. What we as a people fail to take into account is the fact that we have been created by God, that God has placed a part of Himself in every one of us, that God has further placed restrictions upon our lives, and that ultimately we are all accountable unto Him for the things that we have thought, said and done. God is vitally interested in our lives and He is concerned about the course which those lives take. We are spiritual beings and as such we have the responsibility to recognize God as a part of our decision making.

The Old Testament is a history of God's dealings with His people — the Nation of Israel. This nation was miraculously brought into existence by God Himself and through His power it was developed, nurtured and elevated into a place of prominence during the reigns of kings David and Solomon. God had His hand upon Israel as He brought her out of Egypt, directed her through the wilderness, provided for her physical needs, delivered the Promised Land from its inhabitants and presented it to the twelve tribes. He established His people in a goodly land, a land flowing with milk and honey; He raised up judges to deliver them in times of trouble; He ordained prophets to warn them of impending danger; He established their kings and directed them in the affairs of state; He fought their battles; and He protected them from evil. In the face of all of the effort and energy that God put forth to support and to sustain His people, in return He received rebellion,

rejection, revolt, and remorse. Through the Prophet Isaiah (Chapter 5) God gives a parable in which the nation of Israel is likened unto a vineyard that the well-beloved (God) tended with the utmost of care. Every provision that could be made was made as the vines were prepared to produce the most luscious grapes possible. Yet, when the vineyard should have produced this bountiful harvest "...it brought forth wild grapes" (Verse 2). Those wild

*We make the boast of  
being a Christian nation  
established upon the  
precepts and promises of  
His Word.*

grapes came in the form of idolatry (Isaiah 2:8), oppression of the poor (Isaiah 3:14-15), greed (Isaiah 3:16-23), drunkenness (Isaiah 5:11), revelry (Isaiah 5:12), haughtiness (Isaiah 5:21), as well as sin and rebellion in general (Isaiah 5:18). The spiritual integrity of Israel was decimated by wicked rulers, corrupt priests, false prophets and careless citizens. It is small wonder that the swift and severe judgment of God came upon this errant nation.

The history of our own nation has many parallels to Israel. God has established us in a goodly land and from our infancy has been both our peace and our protection. We make the boast of being a Christian nation established upon the precepts and promises of His Word. God is recognized in our historical documents, given a place on our currency, referred to in our pledges, asked to guide in our legislative bodies, and is credited with sustaining our nation during times of war, famine, depression, natural disasters, and internal conflicts. Our presidents have been assassinated, our country has been ripped apart by civil war, racial conflicts have exploded into violence, terrorist attacks have been waged against our society, and most recently our schools have become battle zones in

which the youth of our country have waged war against their teachers and their fellow students; and through all of this we have looked to God for answers and have believed that He knows and understands our sorrows and that He will continue to "shed His grace" upon us. The disasters of our society remind us of the reality of God and just how much we need and depend upon Him, but when the tragedy is past and things begin to once again settle down, we fall back into the same routine of business as usual which means that God is once again pushed into the background until the next time some radical with a gun or a bomb decides to invade our lives.

If God is the God of the bad times, He must also be the God of the good times. If we are indeed a Christian nation and a spiritual people, then the Reality that is God must permeate our thoughts, actions and deeds. The heroes of our society used to be people with spiritual insight and moral integrity. They used to be politicians, athletes, military people and even movie stars who exemplified excellence in their conduct and morality in their lifestyles. Today many of our political leaders spend most of their time defending themselves against scandal and corruption, while they involve themselves with questionable people and undertake questionable activities. Recently I heard over the radio a report on the number of illegitimate children that are being born because of the free lifestyle that college and professional athletes have entered into. The report stated that sports agents spend more of their time handling paternity suits than they do negotiating sports contracts. The lifestyle of our entertainment personalities (movies, television, and musical) is anything but wholesome and Godly. It is a world of drugs, debauchery, satanism, homosexuality, adultery and fornication that is unashamedly pursued by the men and women of this medium, and for the most part these are the very people that our youth look up to as role models and attempt to emulate in their talk, dress

# *The glory of such friends*

by W. Howard Starling

Think where man's glory most begins and ends,  
And say my glory was I had such friends.

— William Butler Yeats

and lifestyle. If God refused to spare His own nation and people from judgment because of their wicked and careless lifestyles, what makes us as a nation think that we will be spared from a similar fate. May God save us from our own ignorance and may He forgive us for what we have become.

Again I ask the question — what's wrong with absolutes? In our world in general and in our society in particular, there is a notion that there are no absolutes; for the most part nothing is completely good or completely evil. I strongly disagree. It is my belief that with God there are absolutes; there are those things that are pure, perfect, unchangeable and unquestionable. There are still those who believe that the Bible is the infallible and inerrant Word of God and that it says what it means and means what it says; and there are still

*If we are indeed a  
Christian nation and a  
spiritual people, then the  
Reality that is God must  
permeate our thoughts,  
actions and deeds.*

those who believe that God is a God of judgment who holds people accountable for their actions; and there are still those who believe that if the eternal truths of God are tampered with, then He has no alternative but to punish the transgressor according to His righteousness. The moral and spiritual condition of our country has suffered greatly in recent years and I for one believe that they cannot be allowed to deteriorate any further. This is the month that we celebrate our independence, our freedom. Unless we turn back to God and to the absolute truth of His Word, our freedom is in danger of becoming nonexistent. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31). ■

"Ronnie Mohn? Of course I remember him. Why do you ask?"

The Rev. Mohn and I have nodded toward each other and shared passing comments at many conventions. We have also shared in group conversations with our mutual acquaintances. I considered him a friend and Christian brother, but we had no continuing personal relationship. Neither of us classified ourselves as "close" friends. Little did I know how greatly he was about to affect my life.

My spouse, Joan, and I embarked on a minor business venture during the summer of 1996. We were remodeling a small house. We needed more room for our household goods and the books that I have collected over the last forty-plus years. Naturally, money runs out long before the project is completed. We could have lost the roof to cover our heads. In such times, one usually turns to family and friends.

After explaining my predicament to a fellow minister, he asked whether I remembered Rev. Mohn. "I'm almost certain he would help. Let's give him a call," he said.

Ministers seem to have an uncontrollable urge to offer help to those in need. Sometimes their help obligates others. Although well meaning, we may even commit our friends to costly and time-consuming involvement. As a result, I usually pay very little attention to this kind of third party volunteerism.

Imagine my surprise, a few days later, when I answer a phone and hear Mr. Mohn's voice. Without reluctance he offers a helping hand and obligates another minister, the Rev. Roy Clifton.

A few week later, these two are at our home near Elon College. Moments after arriving, they are busily measuring, sawing, and pounding nails. Fall rains and cold winds pepper them with just the right amount of misery. Mud slurps over their shoes adding a numbness that harmonizes the whole body into one big chill. Night comes; they continue to work. Another day comes and goes. Miserable conditions worsen. Their work goes on.

They are physically drained when the work is done, but the price they pay far exceeds their weariness:

The long drive home.

The cost of each trip.

Time, labor and even materials costs.

The jingle in their pockets is much less than when they arrived. All this would have been too much for lesser persons. Their final comment: "Don't worry about it, Howard. We're glad we can help."

Their kindness toward a fellow Christian served to bring us through our uncertain financial future. Thanks to their Christ-like compassion and labor of Christian love we have passed the crisis. Last Christmas was one of our most precious because of these two men of God.

Words cannot express how much they have blessed us and how thankful we are for their help.

I glory in their friendship.



# North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists — by Mamie Dail

The North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary of Original Free Will Baptists met in its seventy-first annual session on Thursday, May 14, 1998, at the East Rockingham Free Will Baptist Church in Rockingham, North Carolina.

The theme for the meeting was "Work For The Night Is Coming," with Scripture from John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

A choral call to worship was presented by the Mount Olive College Fellowship Ensemble.

The convention hymn, "Work For The Night Is Coming" was sung by the congregation, with Diane Riley as song leader.

Carolyn Jernigan, State President (Cape Fear), called the meeting to order followed by devotions from Linda Bryan, Program-Prayer Chairman (Pee Dee). Linda used Matthew 5:16, Ephesians 2:10 and Proverbs 31:10 to remind us of good works that are found in the virtuous woman.

Moments of meditation with a piano, organ, and flute trio by Julie Wetherington (Eastern), Jean Wise (Cape Fear), and Michelle Wooten (Central) was followed with the Convention Prayer by Cathy Creech, Youth Chairman (Western).

Debbie Motsinger, President (Piedmont), gave a hearty welcome to everyone with a response from Cynthia Mills (Eastern).

Jean Brown, Program-Prayer Chairman (Piedmont), gave the announcements.

The recitation, "A Woman Ponders," written by Nancy Matthews, First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, was read by Deborah King. This told of the events taking place in a woman's day when she felt that she had no time for God. He reminded her that as she had done for others, she had done for Him.

Carolyn Jernigan gave the president's address. She noted items of business that were to be considered later.

There was a roll call of districts asking the ladies to stand as their district was called. The ministers in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized.

The credentials, finance and resolutions committees were appointed.

Deborah King led the prayer for the convention offering. Offertory music was presented by Jean Wise. The response was sung by the congregation, "Work While It Is Today."

Life Membership Service Awards were presented to Ruth Warrick by Clara Patrick, State Benevolence Chairman (Central), and to Nina Grace Register by Happy Taylor, State Program-Prayer Chairman (Eastern). They were recognized for their long and faithful service, not only to the Convention but to the entire denomination.

After a short break, the Cragmont Choir led by Alma Dale Cox, Program-Prayer Chairman (Western), sang "The Cragmont Song" and "I Feel Good."

The Auxiliary theme song "In the Service of the King" was sung by the congregation.

Marie Glenn (Central) shared a beautiful memorial service comparing birth to death. A hymn of challenge, "To the Work," was sung by all.

The speaker, Becky Jo Sumner, President (Albemarle), was introduced by Sara W. Parker, Past State President (Albemarle).

A song of worship, "My House Is Full, But My Fields Are Empty," was sung by the Mount Olive College Fellowship Ensemble.

Becky Jo's message of challenge was taken from the Book of Ruth, using Ruth 2:12 as her theme verse. She reminded us that Ruth knew where to find her place to work. Ruth was faithful to her job. She had a desire to serve well, was willing to listen to God's directions and strived for a good report.

Becky Jo encouraged us to read the

entire Book of Ruth and to strive to be "Ruth workers."

Joan Little, President (Central), asked for a report from the denominational ministries. They reported as follows:

Mount Olive College — Jean Ackiss introduced a new 62 week course for ministers. She asked women to support Christian Ministry Scholarships which are \$3000 each.

Children's Home — Bobby Taylor asked for continued support. He recognized Mrs. Hazel Brown, a local church member, for her work at the home.

Free Will Baptist Press — Mike Scott told about the literature that was available. He further asked everyone to subscribe to *The Free Will Baptist* and announced that complimentary copies were available.

Foreign Missions — Harold Jones asked each one to "Go into all the world" by supporting missions.

Home Missions — David Charles Hansley asked that we support and pray for Home Missions and Evangelism.

Retirement Homes — Bruce Dudley requested support and prayers.

Cragmont — John Williams asked for a show of hands from those who had been touched by attending conferences at Cragmont. He further asked for support for a program to air condition the sanctuary called "Cool Cash for a Cool Cragmont." He reported that renovations were continuing.

The following committee reports were given:

## CREDENTIALS

- 7 districts reporting
- 13 A-1 Auxiliaries
- 82 Auxiliaries reporting
- 33 Auxiliaries representing today
- 122 in attendance

## FINANCE

\$307.74 was to be divided between Cragmont, the Children's Home and Mount Olive College.

## RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions were read, which included a rising vote of thanks to



the East Rockingham Church.

May Pittman (Central) installed the officers for the 1998–2000 term. She used the attributes of each officer to challenge them to carry out the duties that were bestowed upon them. She presented each officer with a birthstone angel to act as a reminder that they were serving the Master.

After the hymn of commitment, "His Way With Thee," Hazel Brown gave the benediction and blessing. A delicious lunch was served in the fellowship hall. (Photos by Dianne Riley).

#### Registration

Joan Little, State Vice-President (Central)

#### Music Director

Diane Riley, State Christian Education Chairman (Eastern)

#### Pianist

Jean Wise (Cape Fear)

#### Ushers

Deborah King, State Missions Chairman (Western)

Angela Honeycutt, Youth Chairman (Cape Fear)

Angie Piner, Youth Chairman (Eastern)

Gina Tripp (Central)

Tina Wetherington, Missions Chairman (Eastern)

#### Special Guest

The Mount Olive College Fellowship Ensemble

Julie Wetherington, David Smith, Karen Ham,

Matthew Pope, Michelle Wooten

### OFFICERS: 1998–2000

President: Carolyn Jernigan

Vice-President: Joan Little

Secretary: Sandra Jones

Corresponding Secretary: Mamie Dail

Treasurer: Nadine Crocker

Christian Education: Diane Riley

Missions Chairman: Teresa Grubbs

Youth Chairman: Martha Parsons

Co-Youth Chairman: Angela Honeycutt

Life Membership: Nadine Crocker

Study Course Chairman: Deborah King

Program-Prayer Chairman: Happy Taylor

Benevolence Chairman: Clara Patrick

Field Secretary: Jean Ackiss

Literature Committee Chairman: Hilda Starling

Devotion Compiling Editor: Nina Grace Register

Devotion Compiling Co-editor: Sheryll Wood



*President Carolyn Jernigan, pictured left.*



*Denominational Ministries, pictured above.*

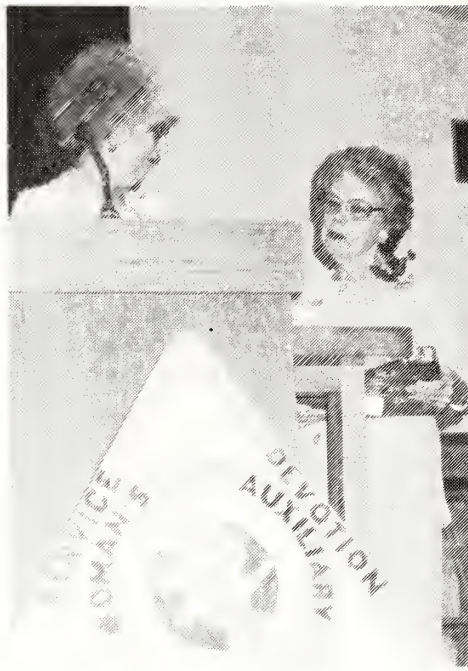


*Sandra Jones Secretary's Report, pictured right.*





*Becky Jo Sumner, speaker*



*Life Membership  
Service Awards:  
left: Nina Grace Register  
below: Ruth Warrick*



*Mount Olive College  
Fellowship Ensemble,  
pictured left:  
Julie Wetherington  
David Smith  
Karen Ham  
Matthew Pope  
Michelle Wooten*



*May Pittman installs new officers.*



*Marie Glenn, Memorial Service*



# Camp Vandemere

## Our Family Enrichment Center

Camp Vandemere is a very special place located on the shore of the Bay River in Pamlico County, NC. Many of our Original Free Will Baptist people have yet to discover this prime piece of real estate that is being used mightily of God. Consider the following:

### What Camp Vandemere can do for you:

- For a layman or laywoman it provides annual retreats whereby your spirit can become refreshed;
- For a young person there are camps throughout the summer that offer Christian training as well as Christian fun;
- For a minister it provides an opportunity for your church to have a getaway for spiritual renewal, family seminars, Sunday school picnics and/or other recreational activities;
- For a family there is a family lodge available at reasonable rates.

(The camp is located within easy driving distance of historic New Bern, Washington, Bath and Beaufort; as well as Atlantic beach and a number of good restaurants.)

### What you can do for Camp Vandemere:

- Pray for us: One of the greatest powers on earth is prayer — *It Works*.
- Support us financially: There is a never-ending list of improvements that can only be made through the faithfulness and the generosity of God's people.
- Send us your young people: Our primary task is winning souls for Christ, and through our summer camps numerous boys and girls have come to know Him as Lord of their lives.
- Schedule a weekend retreat for your church: You will be surprised

at the difference quiet time alone with God can make.

- Take advantage of our facilities during vacation: The staff and management of the camp are available to serve you and your family.
- Tell others about the camp: Word-of-mouth advertisement is one of the best ways to keep Camp Vandemere before our church people.
- Allow someone to represent the camp in your church: The phone number and address of our Camp Directors are listed to the right.

The Chairman of the Camp Vandemere Board is:

Owen Arthur  
600 Half Moon Road  
New Bern, NC 28560  
(252) 633-1185

Our Camp Director is:

Aldric Gaskins  
745 Washington Post Road  
New Bern, NC 28560  
(252) 637-4949

Either of these gentlemen will be glad to share information with you concerning the camp.

## Second Annual "Singin' By The River"

Saturday, August 1      9:00 AM — until  
Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, NC  
Worship, Fun, Food and Fellowship for the Entire Family

*Featuring*  
The Four In Christ Quartet  
New Horizon Quartet  
The Second Edition Quartet  
Mark & Elaine  
Covenant  
Trinity

Rain or Shine...Under "The Big Tent"  
Bring your Neighbor, Bring a Friend  
Hot Dogs, Drinks, Snacks, Hamburgers, and  
other goodies will be available.

Bring your Fishin' Poles & Lawn Chairs  
Camping Facilities Available (call for details)

For more information call  
252-633-1185; 252-637-0231; 252-745-3171; 252-637-4949



# Layman's League...

## State Layman's League Officers



The officers of the State Layman's League are: (left to right) the Rev. Jack Weathersby, Layman's League Advisor; Elmer Harrell, President; Russell Tyson, Vice-President; John Newton, Member-at-Large; Harold Humbles, Secretary; Robert Tripp, Treasurer.

## Central Conference Layman's League

The Central Conference Layman's League met June 1, at Rose Hill Church, with a meal being served from 6:30 until 7:45. At that time the men met in the sanctuary for its regular meeting. The main speaker was the Rev. David C. Hansley, Director of Home Missions and Evangelism.

The men, along with some of the ministers, await the beginning of the Central Conference meeting.



## Spiritual Life Retreat



The Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat, held at Camp Vandemere, June 5-6, 1998, proved to be a highlight of the year for the Layman's League. Total attendance was fifty-two, as shown in the group picture.



The speakers for the Spiritual Life Retreat were (left to right) the Rev. David C. Hansley, Mr. Elmer Harrell and the Rev. Frank Flowers.



## Dates to remember

July 2 — Executive Board, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7:30 PM.

August 6 — Promotional Committee, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7:30 PM.



# Denominational Ministries

## MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

### Evans Lecture Reminder

The Fourth Annual James A. Evans Lecture will be Monday, August 3, at Mount Olive College. The theme is "Worship: An Encounter With God." The schedule for the day is:

- 9:00 AM Registration (\$10 for minister, \$16 for minister and spouse)
- 9:30 AM Session One: The Bible Roots of Worship
- 10:45 AM Session Two: Worship Through Music
- 12:00 NOON P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award Luncheon
- 1:30 PM Session Three: Worship Through Congregational Participation

The Evans Lecture is the centerpiece of the Ministers Institute hosted by the College. Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington sponsors the lecture to foster the pastoral qualities. In sponsoring the lecture, Dr. Morris honors the Rev. Evans who served Dr. Morris's home church of Union Grove FWB Church in the Nahunta community of Wayne County.

Please mark August 3 on your calendar!

### Church Ministries Program Update

The students in the first Church Ministries Program evening cohort have completed courses in the Life of Jesus, the Letters of Paul, and Hebrew Prophets. They have learned how difficult it is to be a full-time student while working full-time.

"I am extremely proud of each of these gentlemen," said Dr. David Hines, chairman of the Religion Department. "Their commitment to preparing for their calling is outstanding."

Current plans call for the beginning of a second Church Ministries cohort at Mount Olive College in New Bern on September 22 and for others in Wilmington and Mount Olive to begin in January 1999.

For more information about these programs, contact Dr. David Hines in Mount Olive at 800-653-0854 or Dr. George Thigpen in New Bern at 800-868-8479.

### Dr. Byrd

### Named CVAC President

Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College, was named president of the Carolinas-Virginia Athletics Conference (CVAC) at the conference's recent spring meeting.

The conference consists of 12 colleges, including Mount Olive, and operates at the Division II level under the auspices of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). College presidents of the 12 member colleges serve as a board of directors and rotate leadership and committee positions. Dr. Byrd ascended to president, having served as vice-president for the last two years. He succeeds Dr. James Strobel, who is retiring as president of Erskine College. Dr. Byrd will serve as conference president for two years.

As president, Byrd will officiate at conference meetings and work closely with the conference commissioner, Dr. Alan Patterson.

"The fact that Mount Olive College is being asked to provide some leadership in the governing of the conference represents a maturing of our athletics program," Byrd said. "I am glad to do it."

Serving as a conference official does not carry any extra pay, time, or privilege.

"It comes with the territory of being a college president and of Mount Olive being a member of the conference," he said.

In addition to presidents, each member college is represented by the director of athletics and a faculty athletics representative. At Mount Olive College, Dr. Alan "Mac" Cassell is director of athletics, and Ms. Sonya F. McCoy, assistant professor of business, is the faculty athletics representative.

Ms. McCoy replaced Mr. Willis A. Brown, Jr., associate professor of biology, who served as the faculty athletics representative at the college for more than 25 years. At the recent spring meeting held in Mount Olive, conference officials presented Brown with a plaque in appreciation for his long service.

Other CVAC colleges are: Anderson, St. Andrews, Barton, Belmont Abbey, Coker, Erskine, Lees-McRae, Limestone, Longwood, Pfeiffer, and Queens.

### Upcoming Events

Monday, July 20, 8:30 AM — Freshmen Advising Day, Murphy Regional Center

Monday, August 3, 9:00 AM — James A. Evans Lecture, Hennessee Room, Murphy Regional Center



## Hubert C. and Mozelle F. Scott Family Library Endowment Fund

### Mount Olive College

*W. Burkette Raper, Director of Planned Giving*

It was "Parents Appreciation Day" on August 3, 1985. The four children of Hubert Cox and Mozelle Fitzgerald Scott of Kenly, North Carolina had invited family members and friends to join with them in expressing love for their parents and appreciation for the quality of family life they had provided for their children. It was a joyful event held in the Fellowship Hall of the Kenly Free Will Baptist Church with approximately 140 people in attendance.

The children wanted the event not only to be joyful but



Front row (left to right): Dr. W. Burkette Raper, Director of Planned Giving, Mount Olive College; Dr. J. William Byrd, President; and Mrs. Mozelle F. Scott. Second row (left to right): Children of Mrs. Mozelle F. Scott and the late Hubert C. Cox — Mr. Howard F. Scott, Mrs. Rachel S. Crawford, and Mrs. Judy S. Pate.

they also wanted to express their love in a tangible and lasting way. To do so, they each made a gift to begin an endowed fund and at the reception they surprised their parents with the announcement of the "Hubert C. and Mozelle F. Scott Family Library Endowment" at Mount Olive College.

In subsequent years, Mr. and Mrs. Scott themselves added to the Fund, and when Mr. Scott died in 1993 a large number of friends made memorials to the Endowment. In addition, Mr. Scott was a participant in the Mount Olive College program of Charitable Giving through Life Insurance, and the proceeds of his policy were added to the Fund. Other gifts to the Endowment have included US Savings Bonds by Mrs. Scott.

On May 9 of this year, the Scott family came together on the campus of the College for Commencement. Howard F. Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott, also an alumnus and member of the College's Board of Trustees, was the speaker, and a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Michael D. Scott of Fayetteville, AK, was a member of the graduating class. While on campus, the family was given a tour of the telecommunications center of the College for which the Scott family has provided special support.

Current assets of the Scott Family Library Endowment total \$32,500.00 and the family has announced plans to increase this amount to \$50,000.00 in the near future.

In addition to Howard F. Scott of Kenly, North Carolina, director of Wayne County Cooperative Extension Service for NC State University, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Scott include: Dr. Hubert Donovan Scott, professor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AK; Mrs. Judy S. Pate of Virginia Beach, VA, Public Librarian; and Mrs. Rachel S. Crawford of Altavista, VA, Public School Teacher.

## The Alice and Willard Dunn Scholarship Fund

The "The Alice and Willard Dunn Scholarship Fund" at Mount Olive College was established by Richard Holmes as a tribute to his adoptive parents, Alice Holmes Dunn and Willard Dunn.

Richard graduated from Mount Olive College in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and is an ordained minister presently serving as pastor of Milbournie Original Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson County. Shortly after his graduation from Mount Olive College, Richard began talking with Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support at the College, regarding ways he could honor Mr. and Mrs. Dunn.

Mrs. Dunn retired this year, after teaching for 37 years as an elementary school teacher. To express his love and appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, Richard hosted a dinner honoring Mrs. Dunn and invited family and friends to give to the Alice and Willard Dunn Scholarship Fund at Mount Olive College. (Mr. Dunn passed away February 16, 1997.) Gifts given to this Fund are invested and the earnings will be used to provide scholarships for students at Mount



(Left to right): Dr. W. Burkette Raper, Director of Planned Giving; Mrs. Alice Holmes Dunn, The Rev. Richard Holmes.



## *Spring Sports Review — by Benny Benton, Sports Information Director*

Both the Mount Olive College baseball and softball teams reached new levels of success this year, as did some individual players.

### **Baseball**

After qualifying for the NCAA Division II playoffs for a third straight year, the baseball team advanced to the South Atlantic Regional finals for the first time ever before falling to the No. 1 ranked and eventual runner-up Kennesaw State University in the championship game.

The Trojans reached the post-season with a late season surge, producing 19 wins in 20 games. Included in the stretch was a sweep of the Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference Tournament.

Mike Neill, who led the team with a school record .419 batting average, was named Third All-American by the American Baseball Coaches' Association, as well as First Team All-CVAC and First Team All-South Atlantic Region. Neill is the second MOC player to earn Third Team All-American honors. Scott McKee claimed the same award last year.

Joe Cruz and Garrett German were named to the All-South Atlantic Region Second Team.

### **Softball**

The softball team recorded a school-record 35 victories in 1998, and also achieved the program's first regional ranking of No. 5 in the South Atlantic Region.

The Lady Trojans posted a second-place conference finish in both the regular season and CVAC Tournament behind Coker College, which went on to win the regional and advance to the national tournament.

Senior Heather Parker, who ranked among the nation's top 25 in both batting average (.454) and RBIs (57), was presented with one of the most prestigious awards in college athletics — membership on the 1998 GTE Academic All-America Softball Team for the College Division.

The award recognized Parker as one of the top 11 student-athletes in the nation among NCAA Division II, III, and NAIA schools. The award committee considered both her athletic accomplishments as well as those in the classroom,

where she earned a four-year 3.66 grade point average, including straight A's for a 4.0 GPA this year.

Shortstop Jennifer Ellis was named to the GTE Academic All-District III team. At graduation, Ellis received the Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Excellence in academics and athletics and a month earlier was honored as the College's Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Also, catcher Elisha Perkins was named to the All-South Atlantic Region's Second Team.

### **Tennis**

After struggling through an extremely difficult non-conference schedule, men's and women's tennis teams came on strong at the end of the season. The men won four of their last seven regular season matches, and the women claimed three of their six matches on the schedule.

In the conference tournament, the women's team won three out of four matches and earned a fifth-place finish, a performance believed to be the MOC best showing ever in a CVAC tournament. The men's team split four matches and placed seventh in the tourney, perhaps a school best for that team as well.

### **Golf**

After an up-and-down year, the golf team closed out the year by finishing third against a good field in the Lacey Gane Invitational hosted by UNC-Pembroke, then placing fourth in the CVAC Championships.

Canie Davenport was a medalist at the Lacey Gane, which represented MOC's single individual title of the spring.

Steve Anderson finished sixth in the CVAC Championships and earned All-CVAC honors, which is a first by a MOC golfer since the school moved to NCAA Division II level. Anderson, an outstanding business student with a 3.6 GPA, was also selected to the GTE Academic All-District III At-Large Team. As of this date, he is a nominee for Academic All-American honors.

## *The Alice and Willard Dunn Scholarship Fund Cont...*

Olive College who will be entering the teaching field. Gifts can be given at any time and in any amount the donor chooses.

For several years Mrs. Dunn has been a volunteer at the Carteret County Dinner for Mount Olive College serving on the County Steering Committee and as local Chairperson for her church, Silver Creek. During her teaching career she touched many lives

through her teaching and involvement in NEA, NCAE, and OCAE. She has served her community as President of the Swansboro Shrinettes and presently serves on the town commission board where she is town clerk at Peletier. She is presently treasurer of Silver Creek FWB Church where she works diligently for the Lord.

Mr. Dunn was a Mason, member of the Scottish Rite and a Shriner where

he was President of the Swansboro Shrine Club. In his last years nothing gave him more joy than serving his Lord at Silver Creek Church, where he served as a deacon.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunn were married for 23 years and from this marriage they were blessed with five children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



## A Sign for Park Lane

Ms. Kathryn Lind and Mr. Dan Schreck, daughter and father, operators and owners of Havelock Sign Shop, have given and installed our new signs for Park Lane Original Free Will Baptist Mission/Church of Havelock, North Carolina. We are grateful and appreciative for such a nice contribution of the sign on the face of our building and also on the door.

Park Lane Mission/Church began with only a Bible study on Tuesday evenings and has for several months had worship on Sunday morning at eleven o'clock. This new work continues to minister in the community with an average attendance at each service of about 20 persons. The location of Park Lane is in Slocum Shopping Strip at 3-B, Park Lane Avenue.

We continue to use pulpit supply for Sunday Worship with Dr. A. Graham Lane conducting Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:30 PM. The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism is in need of a Director/Pastor for this work. Please be much in prayer as the Search Committee continues the process of securing a minister.

PARK LANE  
ORIGINAL FREE WILL  
BAPTIST MISSION



*The new sign for Park Lane  
Original Free Will Baptist Church.*



*Mr. Dan Schreck, Havelock Sign Shop, at work.*

## Crumpler elected to board



The Rev. Charlie Moeller; Emily Jackson, Office Manger; the Rev. Joe Williams; the Rev. Joe Crumpler; Kathleen Walsh, Treasurer; the Rev. Dennis Levin, President.

The Rev. Joe Crumpler, Coordinator for Disaster Relief, a new ministry for Home Missions and Evangelism, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Interfaith Disaster Response Organization.

NCIDR is organized for the purposes:

- A. To establish an emergency or disaster relief fund to assist victims of disaster occurring in the state of North Carolina, and to provide training in disaster assistance and preparedness.
- B. To accept donations, contributions and gifts of all kinds of property, whether real, personal or mixed, and to purchase, lease and otherwise acquire, hold, mortgage, convey and otherwise dispose of all kinds of property, and generally to perform all acts which may be deemed necessary in the execution of the objectives and purposes for helping those who have experienced a disaster.

The purposes of The Disaster Relief Ministry of Original Free Will Baptist are:

- A. To provide the skills of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, cleaning, repairs, and other skills for those who have experienced DISASTER.
- B. To provide the opportunity for Original Free Will Baptists to be involved in a Compassion Ministry, sharing our Christian experiences.
- C. To provide the opportunity for our denomination to present THE CHURCH IN ACTION.
- D. At the same time we assist those who have experienced DISASTER, we will endeavor to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way possible.

To receive more information and an application call (252) 746-4963, or write DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY c/o Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.



# So send I you...

*"And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" (Romans 10:15).*

Recently the Rev. Fu Moua, pastor of the newest Lao Evangelical Church located in St. Paul, Minnesota, welcomed the Executive Director, the Rev. David C. Hansley, and the Chairman, Dr. A. Graham Lane, both representing Home Missions and Evangelism, to participate in a seminar and a beginning celebration. Brother Hansley and Dr. Lane, along with leaders of the Lao Evangelical Church of America, shared in the endeavor. Approximately 60 persons attended the two-day event. Many of the seventeen families, who have become involved in this new work in less than five months, participated.

God has blessed our commitment to assist the Lao Evangelical Church, who are associate members of our Convention, in Expanding His Kingdom through concerted efforts to reach the H'mong people.

To learn more about Ethnic Missions and our involvement with the H'mong throughout America, invite the Executive Director to visit your church, woman's auxiliary, layman's league, or youth group to share information and show slides of this ministry. Call (252) 746-4963, or write Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.



## HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

### Project Kids Kare

Whaley's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church presented to the Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, the Rev. David C. Hansley, gift boxes to be given to needy H'mong children in Fresno, California.

Many children in America are in need and will be *"Touched for a Lifetime"* by Project Kids Kare, a ministry to children through The Harvest Connection.

By participating in this unique project, you, your family, church, school, or organization will be helping to reach needy children in America.

As you prepare your boxes with school supplies, toys, and small gifts, you will be sending a message of love and concern. Children who receive your boxes will learn of the wonderful love of Jesus through you.

When a child receives a box, they will also receive literature about the good news of Jesus Christ.

Pray for the children that will receive your gift box. Remember, you are participating in A Child Evangelism Project through Project Kids Kare.

For more information call (252) 746-4963, or write Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.



*Gifts from Whaley's Chapel.*

### Board of Home Missions and Evangelism seeks Executive Director

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism has accepted the resignation of the Rev. David C. Hansley as Executive Director. His resignation became effective June 1, 1998. Due to the resignation, the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism has appointed a Search Committee to begin seeking a successor. The Search Committee consists of the Rev. Bruce Jones, Chairman; the Rev. James Owens; and Mr. Peyton Lee.

The Search Committee will begin immediately to receive resumes from those persons that may desire to be considered for this position. The committee will receive resumes through midnight July 17, 1998. Please send your resume to: The Rev. Bruce Jones, Chairman of Search Committee, c/o Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

All resumes will be kept confidential and the final decision will be made by the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism. Please be much in prayer for the Search Committee and the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism and the decision they will be making.





# July



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| SUN                                                                                                           | MON                                                                   | TUE                                                                                                  |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 28                                                                                                            | 29                                                                    | 30                                                                                                   | 1  |
|                                                                                                               | Youth Frontier Co                                                     |                                                                                                      |    |
| 5                                                                                                             | 6                                                                     | 7                                                                                                    | 8  |
|                                                                                                               | Youth Frontier C                                                      |                                                                                                      |    |
| 12<br>Children's Home<br>Alumni Homecoming.<br><br>Franklin Graham<br>Operation Andrew Sunday<br>All Churches | 13                                                                    | 14                                                                                                   | 15 |
|                                                                                                               | General                                                               |                                                                                                      |    |
| Mexico Short Term M                                                                                           |                                                                       |                                                                                                      |    |
| 19                                                                                                            | 20<br>MOC Freshmen Advising Day,<br>Murphy Regional Center<br>8:30 AM | 21<br>Franklin Graham,<br>Prayer Rally, Philippi Church<br>of Christ, Greenville, NC<br>7:30-9:30 PM | 22 |
|                                                                                                               | General                                                               |                                                                                                      |    |
| Mexico Short Term Mission Team                                                                                |                                                                       |                                                                                                      |    |
| 26                                                                                                            | 27                                                                    | 28                                                                                                   | 29 |
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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

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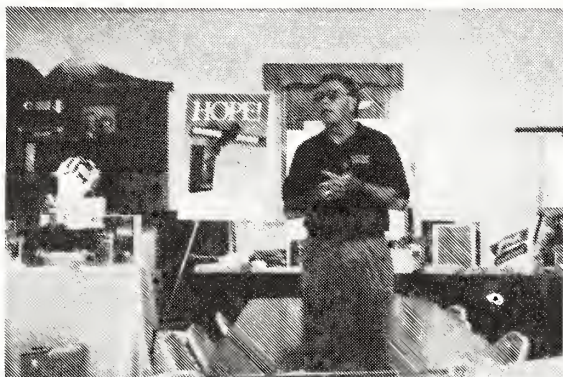
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|                                               | THU                                                                                           | FRI                             | SAT                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bookstores<br>Inventory                       | <b>2</b><br>Layman's League<br>Executive Board VWF Building,<br>Snow Hill, 7:30 PM            | <b>3</b><br>Headquarters Closed | <b>4</b><br>FWB Press Bookstores<br>Closed<br><br>Independence Day                                     |
| Conference — YFA at Cragmont – June 29–July 4 |                                                                                               |                                 |                                                                                                        |
|                                               | <b>9</b><br>Franklin Graham,<br>Community Christian Center,<br>Greenville, NC<br>7:30–9:00 PM | <b>10</b>                       | <b>11</b>                                                                                              |
| Mexico Short Term Mission Team                |                                                                                               |                                 |                                                                                                        |
| Conference — AFC at Cragmont – July 6 – 11    |                                                                                               |                                 |                                                                                                        |
|                                               | <b>16</b>                                                                                     | <b>17</b>                       | <b>18</b><br>Franklin Graham,<br>Prayer Breakfast, First FWB<br>Church, Greenville, NC<br>7:30–8:30 AM |
| Church II at Cragmont – July 13 – 18          |                                                                                               |                                 |                                                                                                        |
| Mission Team July 10 – 20                     |                                                                                               |                                 |                                                                                                        |
|                                               | <b>23</b>                                                                                     | <b>24</b>                       | <b>25</b>                                                                                              |
| Church I at Cragmont – July 20 – 25           |                                                                                               |                                 |                                                                                                        |
|                                               | <b>30</b>                                                                                     | <b>31</b><br>MOC Session B Ends | <b>1</b>                                                                                               |
| Bible Conference – July 27 - August 1         |                                                                                               |                                 |                                                                                                        |

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

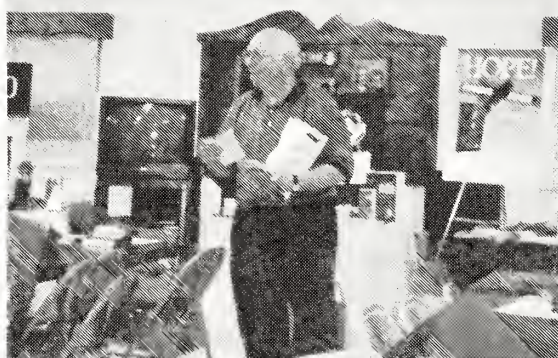


### Celebrate Jesus 2000



*The Rev. Chris Singleton, Moderator of the Eastern Conference, opens the first of three meetings held with each union district.*

*The Rev. David C. Hansley, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, sharing with the Carteret Union District of the Eastern Conference, one of the eight meetings already held, representing more than 65 churches.*



*Celebrate Jesus 2000* is a national evangelistic initiative of Mission America, a coalition of over 300 national Christian leaders who represent approximately 160,000 churches, denominations, parachurch ministries and ministry networks. *Celebrate Jesus 2000* has been endorsed by the *National Association of Evangelicals* as its evangelistic focus for the next three years. It has also been endorsed by the *Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*.

*Celebrate Jesus 2000* is the most massive, inclusive, evangelistic effort in American history! Never before have so many Christians come together on such an endeavor. We pray and believe that this effort is helping to fulfill Jesus' prayer as recorded in John 17, when He prayed for all believers to be one as He and the Father are One "so that the world might know the Father sent the Son."

We find that one of the strengths of *Celebrate Jesus 2000* is that it offers a wonderful rallying point for Christians to form collaborative partnerships for ministry. We believe a strong witness is given to non-Christians when we join together in ministry with other Christians!

Think about it! More and more people, our friends and neighbors and relatives will be *Celebrating Jesus* come the year 2000 because of the faithful prayers and witness of God's people and the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. To God be the glory!

We will, as a denomination, assure the *Celebrating of Jesus* as Lord as we close the second millennium. *Celebrate Jesus 2000* can be the vehicle to help us in casting the vision for this strategic time in our denominational history.

For more information, please contact Home Missions and Evangelism at (252) 746-4963, or write PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

## Are you still looking for a good idea?



### Take a look at this!

Let us provide your next workshop or study course.

- ☞ Church Growth
- ☞ Discipleship
- ☞ Evangelism
- ☞ The Mission of the Church
- ☞ Check Your Hospitality
- ☞ Ushers Are Important
- ☞ Harvest Covenant Program
- ☞ Touching Lives Corps
- ☞ The Work and Ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism
- ☞ Celebrate Jesus 2000



**HOME MISSIONS  
& EVANGELISM**

— of ORIGINAL —

Free Will Baptists

PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513-0039



# Building churches and building buildings

by Z. I. Perocillo

The early disciples of Jesus were really guided by God. They built churches at the center of the population, like Corinth, Philippi and other places that had so many people.

In the Visayas and Mindanao, like Cebu City, the queen city of southern Philippines, this is where we have Bible studies and fellowship.

Our first Church planting was done among our relatives and friends with their acquaintances which served as the nucleus for Cell Group Bible studies.

It was a very difficult job at the onset, Cebu being the Vatican of the Philippines. The fact that we do not have any presentable church building for our gatherings, but just a makeshift, makes it hard for people to appreciate what we are doing. Converts have second thoughts whether we are merely fly-by-night temporary gatherings, a spur of the moment of which we find many of this kind around the neighborhood right now, whose main purpose is to take advantage of the Filipino hospitality and generosity, a facade in order to get funds abroad. However, when people experience the joy of being saved, when people around have known that we have made our sacrifices through our finances and inconveniences in our homes, only to accommodate them when they have nowhere to pass the night in the city, or refused for medical treatment much more admission at the general hospital or have no lawyer to guide them legally, they begin to take a grasp of what serving the living God is all about. Through these different ways of helping people in need, the Gospel easily gains access.

The same things happened to the Rev. Harold Jones and wife Sandra with kids Wendy and Misty and this writer's family when they began a missionary work in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines. We worked so hard day and night, but we were not able to baptize a single soul. So, we began to

pray hardly and something happened. When one of the daughters of the sympathizers, by the name of Leonarda Samones, the sister of the Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr., was paralyzed and bedridden due to an accident and the local provincial hospital refused her admission, we prayed that she be airlifted to Manila through the help of the local welfare office. She was brought to Manila and was finally treated at the National Orthopedics. When finally she could walk again, that miracle had an impact on our ministry. Upon arriving back to Palawan, the work of the Church grew and the word multiplied. On the first anniversary at Puerto Main Free Will Baptist Church, the building was full. And the most beautiful thing happened — the first converts are today's leaders in the different local churches. All glory be to God!

The same Holy Spirit that guided us in Puerto Princesa City is now guiding us in the Visayas and Mindanao. In less than two years of operation, based in Cebu City, we now have small congregations in eleven cities in the Visayas and Mindanao. And yet, we do not have any Bible school here. All our church buildings at this time are simply makeshift or accommodated in rented rooms in most cases.

Praise the Lord God almighty, this time the Foreign Mission Board Program of the Free Will Baptist Church "Build One For Them Project," we have now two lots in two cities; also we are about to build two beautiful church buildings that will serve also as school buildings during weekdays and conference centers periodically.

We could never accomplish the great task ahead of us without you Brethren

who have not seen us, believe in the work God has started in us. Please do not stop the good work you are doing and please do not leave us at the middle of the river. We are just beginning to cross Jordan and possess the land found at these eleven cities and more. Thank you for building treasures in heaven where moth and rust cannot destroy. We have so many church activities in the church in order to continue strengthening the church, while at the same time, will be soon building church buildings. These different pictures show you what we are doing.



*Teachers who will work with Children during summer vacation in the Visayas and Mindanao.*



*Youth from the Visayas and Mindanao*

The Lee's Chapel Church has provided funds for construction of a church building in Iligan City, Philippines.

The Winterville Church has provided funds for construction of a church/school building in Cebu City, Philippines.



# Newsletter from India and Nepal

*submitted by Dr. E. M. Lall*

The church work in Nepal seems to be rapidly growing in the interior and the rural villages. The reason is, more effective preaching manifesting that Salvation is possible only through God Almighty. We have new result-oriented Nepali Ministers and Deacons carrying the vision to let Christ be known in all the rural areas in Western Nepal where people are receptive to Christianity. The Christian virtues are more appealing to them.

The highlight of the mission of our church is saving souls for eternity of those who accept it. They are brought for training where intensive major principles of Christianity and the following of the Holy Bible are taught to them. The funds involved in this task are met by local congregations which contribute according to their mite.

This program has been very successful in our congregations, and

therefore, it is said that 97 percent Christians in our congregations are new converts. Needless to mention that they are more rigid in their faith, attend regular worship services and are ready to help the church in anyway possible. Undoubtedly, they are more effective churchmen than those of the old. On Sunday, March 15, 1998, six Hindus were converted as Free Will Baptists from the circuit of Ahladpur of the Rev. R. M. Massey. They were baptized by the Rev. William Samuel, our Field-Director, after the worship service.

Subsequently, it was experienced by these six persons that they are under great blessings of the Lord Jesus Christ and they rejoiced and held a worship meeting in their village, providing lunch to all. We are thankful to the Lord for this venture which provides magnanimous encouragement to our people in His Vineyard.

Nevertheless, our Sunday schools for the kids, and our church is gaining momentum in our major congregations. Most of the basic things of the Bible are taught to them. Many of them are well versed and enjoy learning through short stories of the Bible. We had bought the Children's Bibles in 365 stories and have made sets, like the story of creation, the creation spoiled etc., to the New Testament ending with the new heaven-new earth. It was a great deal of work that was done in quite sometime. We encourage the kids, giving them prizes on special occasions when contests are held. Our Sunday school, led by Jasmine Joseph, is doing very well. We covet prayers for Jasmine to get admission in medicine. She has a desire to become a medical doctor. It is indeed very hard for Christians to get entry for medical training.



*Worship Service in Nepal*



*Baptism in Bareilly.*



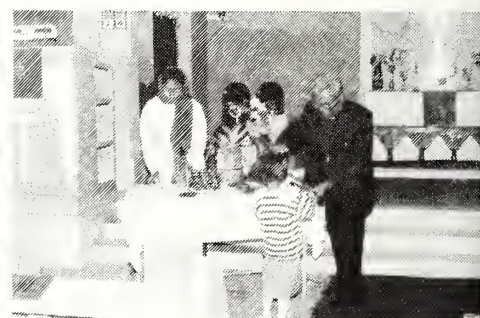
*Sunday School kids taught by Jasmine Joseph.*



*Worship Service in Nepal.*



*Baptism in Bareilly*



*Dr. Lall distributing prizes to children.*

## Mail for Willem and Lydia

Anyone wishing to send a card or letter to Willem and Lydia van der Plas can send it to the Foreign Missions office (PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513) and we will forward it to them via a courier network that we have established through Europe.

**Notice:** *Join a Short-Term Team to Mexico or the Philippines in 1999. Now is the time to pray and act on this important matter.*

*Select from these opportunities:*

**PHILIPPINES:** This team will depart on April 17 and return on May 2, 1999. We need at least two people on this team who have skills in carpentry and masonry who would be responsible for directing the other team members in construction of either a parsonage or a church building.

We also need those interested in youth work, VBS, sports, music, preaching, personal evangelism and other gifts that you can use in ministry. We can only take 12 people on this team. The team is open to those 18 years old and up. The cost is approximately \$1,500 plus food per person \*(could change depending on the cost of the airline tickets.)

**MEXICO:** The first team will work in Mexico from June 12-22, 1999. We need some people with skills in carpentry and masonry to join these teams. This first team is responsible for the major construction part of the building. Team members not involved in construction will conduct, VBS, prayer walks, skits, puppets, etc. Team members must be 13 years old and up. The cost is \$350 plus airfare and food per person.

The second team will work in Mexico from July 10-20, 1999. This team will finish the building and be involved in various other ministries.

**We can only take twenty-nine people per team to Mexico in June and July.**

The third team will be involved in a Youth Camp in Morelos, Mexico from August 14-24, 1999. This team will

consist of fourteen members and you must be 16 years old and up.

**CALLING DOCTORS AND DENTISTS:** We could use doctors and dentists on our Short-Term Teams who would be willing to give their services to minister to the people on our mission fields.

If you are interested in any of these teams, act now! For more information and an application call or write our office today.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** A one day orientation session is required for those who sign up to join a Short-Term Team.

Cut and mail the information request form below or call 252-746-4963.

The Board of Foreign Missions strongly encourages churches to send their pastor and his wife on one of these Short-Term Teams. It will bless their lives and in turn bless your church family. Churches are encouraged to provide support for members who go on these teams. This has been the case with most of the Short-Termers. The whole church becomes involved and reaps the benefits of this exciting ministry.

**DON'T LEAVE ME OUT!**

**FILL OUT AND MAIL IN TODAY!**

Yes! I am interested in receiving information about Short-Term Team opportunities offered by the Board of Foreign Missions. To Mexico \_\_\_\_\_ Philippines \_\_\_\_\_

(circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: ☐ M ☐ F Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

"Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).



Board of Foreign Missions  
PO Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513-0039





## To honor *Myrna Loy Rhodes*

*submitted by Teena Taylor*

Cabin Original Free Will Baptist Church, Beulaville, NC, held a special service on April 19, 1998, to honor Myrna Loy Rhodes for her many years of service and dedication. The family, friends and church family best describe her as: humble, honest, sincere, easy to respect, loving and kindhearted.

A surprise service was planned and carried out quite well. We finally let her in on the secret when our pastor, Ralph Sumner, turned the services over to Gwen Lanier Baker, who introduced our special lady of the day. Chris Baker escorted her to the front of the church to be pinned with a corsage by Faye Kennedy Barbee. Gwen then went on to tell about her many years of dedication to various family members, great loyalty to her brother, and sisters, nieces and nephews and the love she shows each and every church member. Myrna has been the church treasurer since September, 1954, and still continues to teach a Sunday school

class. She has a way with children that none can touch. Away from church, she bakes, sews, quilts and loves to garden. As Gwen concluded, she presented Myrna with a single red rose. The choir sang a beautiful song entitled, "Give Me My Roses." Renada Miller read a beautiful poem honoring all the good deeds that Myrna has done. Renada also presented her a single red rose. Travis Williams, a deacon of the church, stated how at any time Myrna was called on she was always ready and willing to help in anyway she could, he also presented her with a single red rose. Lisa Hatcher Jones told the congregation how much of an inspiration Myrna has been to the young adults and youth group of the church. A truly special lady! Lisa presented her with a single red rose. Becky Ingram Huerta sang a

beautiful song entitled "Friends," and presented her with a single red rose. Debbie Rhodes Hatcher, presented Myrna with a dozen red roses from the entire Rhodes family. Ella Moss Houston presented her with a beautiful bouquet of pink roses from the members of the church. Preacher Ralph Sumner concluded the service by presenting her with a plaque and certificate. Lunch followed in the fellowship hall.



## Groundbreaking ceremony held for classroom building

On Sunday, April 26, at 10:45 AM Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC, held a ground breaking ceremony for a new classroom building. The church has two worship services each Sunday morning, and the time of the ceremony was set to enable worshippers from both services to attend.

The ceremony began with an invocation by Mr. Ben Casey, Chairman of the Planning Committee. This committee has developed the plans for the building over the past several years as well as a master plan for the Church's future buildings.

Scripture was read by the Rev. Glenn Mills, Associate Pastor. The Rev. Gary M. Bailey, Pastor, gave the welcome

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*Pastor Gary Bailey addresses those gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony.*

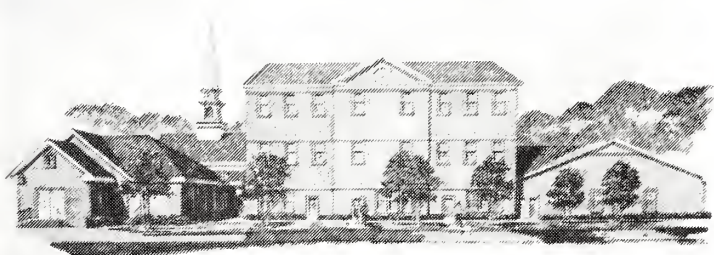


### *Groundbreaking ceremony... Continued*

and shared remarks about the purpose of the building and the outreach ministry of Stoney Creek Church. He cited Isaiah 54:2 (NIV) "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

Following a responsive reading led by Mr. Wes Boyd, Youth Director, various member of the church broke the ground as a symbolic beginning for the new building.

Those taking part in the groundbreaking were as follows: Phillip Jordan, R. Wes Boyd, Gary M. Bailey, Ben Casey, Julia Kirby, Janet Malpass, Dell Combs, Glenn A. Mills, Delbert Scott, Elliott Futrell, Paul Sullivan, Jay Westbrook, Bill Wiggs, Doug Honeycutt, Delores Gray, Kitzi Bass, Danny Daniels, and Darrell Horne.



The new classroom building will be built in the center of the campus of Stoney Creek Church. It will occupy the space previously occupied by the church's first educational building/fellowship hall which was constructed in 1958. That building has been demolished to make room for the new classroom.

The new building will be a three-story structure with approximately 18,000 square feet of classroom space. It is being built by Daniels and Daniels Construction Company of Goldsboro and was designed by Dove-Knight and Associates of Rocky Mount. Financing is being provided by First Citizens Bank. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$1.5 million.

Once the building is complete, all nurseries of the church will be housed on the first floor. The second and third floors will have six large classrooms each. This added space will allow the Stoney Creek Church and its Sunday school to continue to grow.

The church currently has 500 active members with an annual budget of nearly one half million dollars. The church is a member of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and dates its beginning well over 100 years ago. In 1995 the church voted to give ten percent of its building fund offering to support the work of the denomination's Foreign Mission work. Since then the Board of Foreign Mission has begun a program called "Build One for Them," in which churches are encouraged to build sanctuaries, classrooms, schools, or parsonages for congregations in third world countries. The program has raised interest and money throughout the denomination of Original Free Will Baptists.

### *Reedy Branch Church plans New Construction*

On May 3, 1998, Reedy Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Winterville, NC, had a groundbreaking ceremony anticipating the new construction of a lobby, restrooms, offices, and four upstairs classrooms. The new construction will connect the two existing buildings. After Communion, the church gathered outside to thank God for the new building. Praises were given to God because phase one of the construction has been completely underwritten at the cost of \$242,000. Plans are being made to start phase two, which will include renovating the gym area into a fellowship hall with kitchen, restrooms, storage area, and more classroom space upstairs.



Pictured participating in the groundbreaking are: (left to right) Sonny McLawhorn representing the Church Board; Jimmy Stocks representing the Building Committee; James Little representing the Trustees; Pastor Michael Ledbetter; Youth Director David Allen; Earl Deal representing the Finance Committee; Jean Deal representing the Woman's Auxiliary; Donna Ware representing the Youth Committee; and Estelle Thorpe, Building Fund treasurer.

### *Church Youth Club* by Tenna Taylor

On Saturday, May 9, 1998, the Youth Club of Cabin Original Free Will Baptist Church, Beulaville, NC, went to the Imagination Station in Wilson. The group started the day with lunch at Pizza Inn in Goldsboro, then went to the science museum. After departing from there they stopped off at McDonalds for ice cream. The youth group invites all children to come and be with them on Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM. Those who attend the field trip are as follows: Haley Mercer, Emily Merady, Joshua Baker, Colbie Southerland, Lesley Miller, Nikita Smith, Laken Futreal, Jordan Meready, Ore Futrell, Justin Futreal, Harold Jones, Michael Smith, Chris Taylor, David Short and Miranda Lemons. The group leaders who attended are as follows: Lisa Southerland, Sherry Mercer, Darien and Ann Miller, Mike and Melissa Smith, Andy and Renada Miller, and Chris and Gwen Baker.



## People & Events

### Youth Group Completes "Basic Training"

— by Rita Jones

May was a very busy month at Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church in Clayton, NC. On May 3rd, Faitha Crowe, a Cragmont Camp counselor and member of Powhatan, came and talked with children and parents about what to expect this summer at Cragmont. All the youth are getting excited!

On May 9, Vicky Bagley sponsored a yard sale at her house to raise money for the upcoming Cancer Relay for Life. Over \$600 was raised for the American Cancer Society.

Mother's Day was celebrated with lovely hanging baskets presented by the Ladies Auxiliary to several mothers. The oldest mother present was Leona Cooke; the youngest was Lisa Murphy; the mother with the most children present was Barbara Southerland.

The youth group attended "God's Basic Training" Youth Convention the weekend of May 15-16 at Mount Olive College. Around thirty people attended from Powhatan with some staying overnight with the youth. The talent performances were great on Friday night. There are certainly some future teachers, judging by the lesson presentations that were given. The singing, the devotion time, just enjoying the peaceful campus, made for a wonderful weekend of blessings. And it is so good to share with other churches that are enthusiastic about the gospel. Our youth are already talking about what they want to do next year! Thank you to Wanda Benson, our Youth Director, and to the chaperones and drivers who made it possible for the youth group to attend and enjoy the weekend.

On May 23, the youth held a car wash at the church as a fundraiser. Their efforts were a success, even though a thunderstorm closed them down a little early. Thank you to Deacons Greg Bass and Craig Davis for assisting before, during, and after the event.

The last weekend in May was spent

with a Saturday night Sing by the *Second Edition* (whom the youth group had heard at Basic Training), and "Senior Sunday" honoring Clayton High School graduates Rhonda Greene and Gregory Smith. Congregations to the seniors for a job well done, and may God go with them on their future paths.

Congratulations, also, to member Rosa Smith, who turned a young "80" on May 24. And to new grandparents Cathy and David Jones and Brenda and Grady Poole, each with new baby granddaughters.



Youth group that attended Basic Training at Mount Olive College



Scrubbing down at the car wash on May 23.

### The Free Will Baptist Memorial Service for Fallen Veterans —by Peggy Bailey

The acolyte moved softly down the aisle toward the two waiting candles near the altar of Rose of Sharon, a small country church located in the Bear Grass community in Martin County, NC. He touched their new wicks with the glowing lighter, waited for the flickering movement that signaled they were burning and silently returned to the back of the auditorium. He joined a waiting friend there, who was holding the Christian flag. The solemn youth was handed the American flag and the two marched swiftly toward the front of the church, while the organist played "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

After the presentation of colors during the Memorial Service at Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church, the congregation recognized two fallen soldiers, Corporal Luther Bailey and Private Charlie Cratt. These young men were members of the church when they were drafted into military service during World War I. Both were killed on Armistice Day, November 11, 1918. Church records show that Bailey was the church clerk before he was recruited.

The men had never married and through the years as memories faded and the older generation died, the two servants of their church and their country were ultimately forgotten. Until recently, when E. D. Harrison started a crusade of his

*Continued on next page.*



## The Free Will Baptist Memorial Service ... Continued



Veterans, left to right, Joe Griffin, Henry Cowin, Otis Farmer, J. R. Jenkins, Bruce Lilley, Ernest Wynn, E. D. Harrison, and Billy Harrison.

own to recognize not only these two, but all from the Bear Grass Community, who had served their country in the U.S. Military Service dating back to the Revolutionary War. Harrison talked with his pastor, Joey Williams, and upon recommendation from the deacon board, the church agreed to purchase memorial stones that would be placed on a monument in Henry Cowin's Memorial Gardens in Bear Grass. Cowin is a member of the church and an avid history buff, who has devoted many hours in documenting facts and recognizing local historic events.

During regular worship services on Sunday, May 24, almost eighty years after Bailey and Cratt died in a foreign land while defending the concept of democracy for all countries, the congregation paused to remember not only those two, but to honor the living veterans who attend the local church. The pastor selected scripture from Exodus 12:14, "So this day shall be to you a memorial..." and began his remarks by explaining that Memorial Day is consecrated to U.S. soldiers everywhere and their dedication to patriotism. He said, "Around this sacred day, there are clusters of precious memories of fallen brave. Over the silent chambers of our sleeping comrades we wreath garlands of flowers — symbols of our love and

gratitude. These graves are the nation's shrines, the Mecca to which patriots journey to renew their devotion to the cause for which these patriots died. This is a sacred heritage purchased by their valor and sealed by their blood. History is their praise. Battlefields attest their courage. 'Sleep, heroes, sleep'; Your deeds shall never die."

Williams goes on to explain the church's feelings.

"Today, we pause to say two things. First, we are sorry that it has taken us this long to remember what you gave for our country, our state, our county, and this community. Second, we say, 'thank you', and salute you for your heroism and your willingness to be a servant. 'So this day shall be to you a memorial...' One that will never allow us to forget your sacrifices. One that will always remind us of the price of freedom. May we, from this day forward, continually cherish your memory."

Family members of those who have lost their lives in war were invited to stand in their memory. Then all others were asked to stand in memory of all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country. There was a time of silence and a dedicatory prayer. Williams prayed, "Lord, we offer these stones to you. We are humbled to think that you would take our efforts and make them significant in your kingdom's work. We offer but a little compared to what You have given us. But in Your grace, You accept our gifts and multiply our efforts. For the gift of freedom and peace, we say thanks to those who ensured this freedom and peace with their lives. Even though we have freedom because of the sacrifice of many through war, it would all be to no avail, without

the freedom that You have made possible for us. For all of Your gifts, we give You thanks. Now Lord, help us to be good stewards of that which You have entrusted to us, through that sacrifice of many. Help us to love each other so much that we, too, would be willing to pay the ultimate price for their peace and freedom. This we pray in the name of the one who offers the greatest freedom, Jesus, our Lord."

The prayer ended with the sound of taps played on the trumpet by Adam Cratt, a great, great, great-nephew of both Charlie Cratt and Luther Bailey. The Choir sang "God Bless the U.S.A." Color bearers were Chad Bailey Rogerson, great, great, great-nephew of Luther Bailey and Jonathan Cowin.

The Memorial Stone was moved from the church after services to the Cowin Memorial Gardens and installed at the base of a statue sculpted by Henry Cowin in honor and memory of all veterans. A community service drew over 100 participants there on May 30, and flags were placed beneath areas designating conflicts the United States has been involved in since the Revolutionary War. These memorials are give by the church in the hope that they will inspire confidence and hope for the future, and by having them we shall remember that past sacrifices should not be forgotten. Lest history repeats itself, and war once again robs us of our best.



Color Bearers, Trumpet Player and Retired Air Force Officer, left to right, Adam Cratt, Chad Bailey Rogerson, Joe Griffin, and Jonathan Cowin.



# People & Events

## *Festival '98 with Franklin Graham —*

The latest Newsletter pertaining to the Festival '98 with Franklin Graham reports that activities are in full swing. The Executive Chair, Dick Douglas states, "We will continue to grow through the summer to become the largest spiritual event in the history of Eastern North Carolina."

Over 4,000 persons attended the Christian Life and Witness classes during the month of May. Those who failed to attend at least three of the sessions will have the opportunity to "make up" during the weeks of August 24–September 4. Locations and times will be announced at a later date. The Rev. Ronnie Hobgood, the Ministers Committee Chairperson, reports as of May 14 there were 166 participating churches; however, volunteers are needed to visit churches and pastors to encourage them in becoming participating churches. If you can help the Ministers Committee with visitation, please contact Ronnie V. Hobgood at 252-756-6600.

Following is the schedule of events from July 9 — August 9.

| <u>Scheduled Date</u>              | <u>Event</u>                                                                                                                                                               | <u>Location</u>                                                           |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday, July 9<br>7:30–9:00 PM   | Rally, Guest Speaker: Dr. Tom Phillips<br>Special Music: Larnelle Harris, and<br>BGEA team members, Tom Bledsoe and Ted Cornell                                            | Community Christian Church<br>1104 N. Memorial Drive<br>Greenville, NC    |
| Sunday, July 12                    | Operation Andrew Sunday<br>The pastor speaks on the principle of being an active Andrew<br>Materials: Prayer Triplet                                                       | All Churches                                                              |
| Saturday, July 18<br>7:30–8:30 AM  | Prayer Breakfast                                                                                                                                                           | First Free Will Baptist Church<br>2426 S. Charles Blvd.<br>Greenville, NC |
| Thursday, July 21<br>7:30–9:30 PM  | Prayer Rally<br>Guest Speaker: Dr. Ike Reighard<br>Guest Musician: Ernest Silver                                                                                           | Philippi Church of Christ<br>1610 Farmville Blvd.<br>Greenville, NC       |
| Saturday, August 1<br>8:00 AM      | Father/Son Breakfast<br>Guest Speaker: Coach Tom Landry<br>(former coach of Dallas Cowboys)                                                                                | Williams Arena: Minges Coliseum<br>ECU: Greenville, NC                    |
| Tuesday, August 4<br>7:30–9:00 PM  | CLWC Class Five<br>(small group training)                                                                                                                                  | TBA                                                                       |
| Thursday, August 6<br>7:30–9:00 PM | CLWC Class Five<br>(small group training)                                                                                                                                  | TBA                                                                       |
| Saturday, August 8<br>7:30–8:30 am | Prayer Breakfast                                                                                                                                                           | TBA                                                                       |
| Sunday, August 9<br>3:00–4:30 pm   | Concert/Choir Rehearsal<br>Directed by: Ted Cornell of BGEA                                                                                                                | Covenant UMC<br>4000 Corey Road<br>Winterville                            |
| Sunday, August 9                   | Love-In-Action Sunday<br>The pastor speaks on Love-In-Action. People are<br>challenged to reach out to those in need, and<br>to bring canned goods to the Festival office. | All Churches                                                              |

**For additional information contact:**

### **Festival Office**

300 14th Street • Post Office Box 1614 • Greenville, North Carolina 27835  
Office Phone: 252-413-0925 Fax: 252-413-0926

## North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptist Leagues

Theme: "Training for God"

The League administered its yearly dose of medicine "that makes the heart merry" on Saturday, May 16, at Rodgers Chapel on the campus of Mount Olive College. The convention began with a joyful chorus time. We were royally welcomed to Mount Olive College by Ms. Dianne Riley. The response came from one of our younger members, Timothy Howell of the Goldsboro League. As the convention continued President Sharlene Howell advised us that no job is a "do nothing job" in the work of the Lord. The Sword Drill brought the usual excitement and nerves. This year's winners were:

### Intermediate

First Place: Heather White, Hickory Chapel Church  
Second Place: Hillary Williams, Goldsboro First Church

### Junior

First Place: Sarah Jones, Hickory Chapel Church  
Second Place: Timothy Howell, Goldsboro First Church  
Third Place: Rebecca Joyner, Hickory Chapel Church

The Afternoon session included a time of praise. Our hearts were lifted to a higher plane as the Goldsboro League shared with us several beautiful songs. We were reminded again of the majesty of our God as Clair Taylor and Kasey Britton sang. Michelle Hoggard and Sarah Jones brought us a step closer to the throne of God with a dramatic violin presentation of "The Touch of the Master's Hand." A piano solo by Clair Taylor lifted our hearts to worship the Almighty God.

The business session included a decision to open the Sword Drill to adults and to allow for unlimited participants for each church that registered with \$25.00. The Convention concluded with the election of new officers and plans for informing Free Will Baptists of League activities in *The Free Will Baptist*.

Once again we learned it does not take huge numbers to praise God and have a joyful time in fellowship with other Christians. I would suggest that others would find the League as exciting as we do if they would only sample it.

## Study Guide — 1998-1999

### Bible Sword Drill

### Junior and Intermediate

## North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptist Leaguers

### I. Scripture Searching (Promises to Believers)

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Genesis 9:11, 15 | 7. Psalm 23:1          |
| 2. Revelation 2:10  | 8. Philippians 4:13    |
| 3. 2 Timothy 1:12   | 9. Psalms 100:5        |
| 4. Isaiah 1:18      | 10. James 1:5          |
| 5. Malachi 3:10     | 11. 1 Corinthians 9:25 |
| 6. Matthew 18:20    | 12. 2 Peter 3:9        |

*corrected us,...*" (Hebrews 12:9-10).

10. "And call upon me in the day of *trouble*;..." (Psalm 50:15).
11. "And lest I (Paul) should be exalted above measure through the abundance of revelations there was given to me *a thorn in the flesh*,..." (2 Corinthians 12:7).
12. "As it is written, For thy sake we are *killed* all the day long;..." (Romans 8:36-37).

### II. Unfinished Quotations (Suffering)

1. "And the Lord said unto *Satan*, Behold all that he (Job) hath is in thy power;..." (Job 1:12).
2. "For *Demas* hath forsaken me (Paul);..." (2 Timothy 4:10).
3. "For the *good* that I would, I do not;..." (Romans 7:19-20).
4. "For ye have need of *patience* that;..." (Hebrews 10:36).
5. "He that goeth forth and *weepeth*, bearing precious seed,..." (Psalm 126:5-6).
6. "But the God of all grace, who hath called us into his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after ye have *suffered* awhile,..." (1 Peter 5:10).
7. "It is good for me that I have been *afflicted*,..." (Psalm 119:71).
8. "The refining pot is for *silver*, and the furnace for *gold*;..." (Proverbs 17:3).
9. "Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh who

### III. Character Drill (Martyrs)

1. Isaiah — Jewish and Christian tradition says sawed asunder. (Hebrews 11:37).
2. Zechariah (2 Chronicles 24:20-21).
3. Uriah (Jeremiah 26:20-23)
4. Stephen (Acts 7:59-60)
5. James (Acts 12:1-2)
6. Antipas (Revelation 2:13)
7. Paul — Believed beheaded by Emperor Nero (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
8. Peter — Believed put to death in AD 66 or 67, crucified upside down by Nero. (John 21:18-19).
9. John the Baptist (Mark 6:18, 27)
10. Martyrs of Jesus (Revelation 17:6)
11. These of great tribulation (Revelation 7:14)
12. The elect (Matthew 24:22)



# People & Events

## Study Guide — 1998–1999

### IV. Book Drill

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Joshua   | 7. Luke      |
| 2. 1 King   | 8. Galatians |
| 3. Job      | 9. 1 Timothy |
| 4. Proverbs | 10. Hebrews  |
| 5. Ezekiel  | 11. 3 John   |
| 6. Jonah    | 12. Acts     |

### V. Topical Drill (Suffering)

1. World hateth (John 15:19)
2. Not be afraid (Psalm 3:5–6)
3. Prayer (James 5:13)
4. Adversity (Proverbs 24:10)
5. Things work for good (Romans 8:28)
6. Besought the Lord (2 Chronicles 33:12–13)
7. Fiery furnace (Daniel 3:16–17)
8. Better heart (Ecclesiastes 7:3)
9. Thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
10. Rejoicing (Acts 5:40–41)
11. Example (1 Peter 2:21)
12. Patient (Romans 12:12)

### VI. Doctrinal Drill

1. The Bible teaches that *suffering* helps us see our true self (Luke 15:17–18).
2. The Bible teaches that *tribulations* enable us to better comfort others (2 Corinthians 1:3–4).
3. The Bible teaches that *Christian Persecution* helps spread the gospel (Acts 8:1, 4).

4. The Bible teaches that *affliction* is used to draw us to God (Jonah 2:1–2).
5. The Bible teaches that we must *die to self* in order to become effective ministers for God (John 12:24).
6. The Bible teaches that when Christians are persecuted for *doing right*, they shall receive their reward in heaven (Matthew 5:11–12).
7. The Bible teaches that suffering shows *God's sovereignty* (Genesis 45:4–5).
8. The Bible teaches that *salvation* is by God's grace (Ephesians 2:8–9).
9. The Bible teaches that salvation is through *faith* (Hebrews 11:6).
10. The Bible teaches that to be saved one must believe in the *Lord Jesus Christ*. (Romans 10:9–10)
11. The Bible contains the *Lord's Prayer* (Matthew 6:9–13)
12. The Bible teaches the *Ten Commandments* (Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:17. Read either).

Bibles will be provided. Only references from this guide will be accepted. Any church or youth group may have Junior (ages 9–11); Intermediate (ages 12–15) and adult contestants. This year there will not be a 2 contestant limit on participants. However, at the convention, the church must register with one \$25 fee. God bless you.

Becky Jo Sumner  
Route 4 Box 410  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
919-332-6810



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**For Ticket Information Contact:  
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call the Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters  
252-746-4963**

**811 N. Lee Street • P.O. Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513**

## **CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE**

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. Robert F. Burke is available as supply pastor and for revivals. He may be contacted at 1196 Jefferson Road, Pinetown, NC 27865 or call 252-927-2041.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Rev. Clifford Ball is available for pastoral services. He may be contacted at 6138 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530 or call 252-524-4337.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Rev. Jimmy Webster is available for full time or bi-vocational pastorate. He may be contacted by phone 252-321-8583.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Saints Delight Church, Eastern Conference is seeking a full time minister. If interested contact George Smith at 252-633-4260.

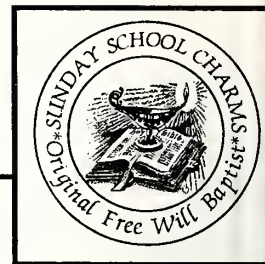
## **SPECIAL NOTICE**

The Free Will Baptist Press recently installed the Norstar telephone system by Sprint.

Calls are received by an automated system. By following the recorded directions you will be able to speak with your desired party.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



## *The sick friend*

by Evelyn English

It was a beautiful, sunny Sunday morning. The sky was clear blue. A gentle breeze was flowing in the trees. Birds were singing and it was good to be alive.

There are four people who are involved in our story. They are all good people, great neighbors, and wonderful friends. They are honest and trustworthy. They are all fairly active in church. But there is one thing they all have in common. They all have a sick friend. The friend is critically ill by some standards. Actually that friend could die. It would be great to be able for at least one of these four to visit the sick friend. The visit would mean a lot, cheer up the sick friend, and even perhaps make him better.

John is the first friend. He is a great guy. What a Sunday! After breakfast he gets on the lawn mower and starts cutting his grass. He stops for a time and chats with his neighbors. He looks at his watch and the time is almost noon. He could have visited that sick friend that morning but he did not.

The second person in our story is Sally. She is busy with housework and all of her chores. She thinks of her sick friend and how it would be so nice to visit that friend. But time runs away from her and she forgets. The visit is not made.

The third person is Robert. He too is a great guy. On this bright Sunday morning he decided to take the family to the beach for a cookout. On the way, he thinks about his sick friend knowing that a visit is in order, but he put it out of his mind. The visit is not made.

The fourth person is alive. She gets up that Sunday morning planning to go to a family reunion that afternoon, knowing that she has to bake a cake for such. She spends all morning being busy in the kitchen to make that cake just right. She thinks about visiting her sick friend. She knows she ought to visit but she does not.

To all of these people and to many others this "sick friend" has always been there for them. They all have learned a great deal from this friend. This friend has ever been a source of comfort for them all. None of the visits were made. Down the road sometime later each learned that the sick friend had died. His name: "Sunday school!"

## *Encourage your sunday school teachers*

### *Publicly Acknowledge Their Work*

- **Create a Teacher Appreciation Bulletin Board** — Create a special bulletin board display in honor of your Christian education workers. It can include pictures of the teachers as well as information about them, such as their favorite Scripture passage, Bible story, hobby, profession, and number of years of teaching experience, etc. If you aren't artistic yourself, consider asking a designer or artist in the church to help you make the display as eye-catching and attractive as possible.

### *Empower Them with Knowledge and Training*

- **Start a "Spiritual Health Club" for teachers** — Teachers who faithfully commit to teaching children year after year can begin to feel a bit isolated from the rest of the adults at church, especially if they are single. Talk with your teachers to see if they would be interested in starting a monthly Bible study group where they can fellowship, share prayer concerns and discuss teaching related issues. Members of your pastoral team may also enjoy joining this group. It's always a good idea to see to the feeding of the feeders.
- **Provide Teachers with a Research Team** — Most teachers would appreciate having someone they could turn to to help them find unusual supplies or reference information. This is a good job for church members who are retired and able and willing to spend some time occasionally tracking down what's needed.

### *Support and Inspire Them*

- **Throw a Shower for Teachers** — Kick off the school year with a Teacher's Shower. Ask the students to bring their teacher a small gift that could be used in the classroom. Such gifts could be things like fancy stickers, a book of stamps, fancy pencils, crayons, posters, etc. Keep the party light and fun with games and music suitable for a wide range of ages.

### *Extend Their Ministry*

- **Help Teachers Correspond with Their Students** — Make it easy for teachers to send a note or a take-home paper to an absent student. Give each teacher several stamped envelopes and a few sets of self-adhesive address labels. (These should have the students' names and addresses already printed on them.) Whenever a student is absent, the teacher can simply put the child's class papers in an envelope, press on the correct address label, and drop it in the mail or have the church office do it.

*Excerpt from 101 Ideas That Work For Encouraging Sunday School Teachers and Other Church Leaders condensed from The Best of the Ideabook, David C. Cook Church Ministries. Used by permission.*



# THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens*



"Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime:  
therefore, we must be saved by hope."  
(Reinhold Niebuhr, Theologian, 1892-1971).

## Beyond Our Time

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

When life smiles upon us with good health, good fortune, success, and a host of friends, it is easy to feel that this is the way we would like for life to go on forever. But when times are hard and life bears down on us with such force and intensity that we feel we have come to the end of our world as we know it, we raise questions and seek answers.

The real question is whether we can understand life if we view it only in terms of our time.

## In Our Time

One of the major concerns of senior citizens today is the future of the Social Security system. Its solvency represents the financial security of millions of Americans who have worked hard and paid into the system for years and who now depend upon it to meet the cost of living.

When we read that unless adjustments are made the system could go into default a generation from now, the temptation for senior citizens is to feel payments are assured in "my lifetime." But is that the answer? What about our children and grandchildren?

History teaches us that to think only in terms of "my time" can be precarious. Senior citizens with a sense of history can readily recall the year 1938 when the clouds of World War II were gathered in Europe. Adolph Hitler was testing the resolve of England and France to thwart his vision of annexing neighboring countries. Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Great Britain, flew to Germany to negotiate the future of Czechoslovakia. Instead of standing up to Hitler, he sought to appease the Nazi dictator by accepting Hitler's plan to mutilate a helpless nation.

With the illusion that Hitler had no further ambitions, Chamberlain returned to England with the infamous "Munich Agreement" and announced, "I believe it is peace for our time." By thinking only of his time, Chamberlain helped to precipitate a war that took the lives of more than fifty million people.

## Living Beyond Our Time

If we are to understand life with a true sense of its meaning, we must be able to think beyond our time. In the words of the late Reinhold Niebuhr, one of the noted theologians of the Twentieth Century, "Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime." Our seeing the totality of life is precluded by our mortality.

In his monumental book, *History of the World*, J. M. Roberts of Oxford University, England, gives us a picture of how brief our lives are. He suggests that a good way to understand history is to think of a century as a minute on a great clock which records the passage of time. Under this concept, it was only twenty minutes ago that Jesus Christ was born, only fifteen minutes ago that Columbus discovered America and barely more than two minutes ago that George Washington became the first president of the United States.

It is only when our view of life transcends "our time" that we can begin to understand life as God designed it. "He (God) has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men," (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

In the midst of suffering and tragedy, we are saved by faith and hope. In this life "we see through a glass, darkly," (1 Corinthians 13:12), but through the gift of eternal life we will be able to see clearly how God works for good for those who love and trust Him.

The lives of all of us have been made better by those who lived before us, those who established our nation in freedom and those who defended it with their lives, those who established the schools and colleges which made possible our education, and those who founded the churches from which we receive spiritual nurture.

Those of us who live in America are heirs of a great legacy of freedom, opportunity, prosperity and the Christian faith. To view these values only in terms of our time is to lose them. The only way we can preserve our heritage is to transmit it, and we can do so by using our lives and our resources for purposes that transcend our time.

1998 (Vol. 3, No. 8) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



### **Gleanings from the 1968 Issues of *The Free Will Baptist***

The Midyear Spiritual Life Conference of the North Carolina Ministerial Association met on January 25, 26, 1968, at the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church, with the Free Will Baptist Press serving as host. The theme for the conference was, "Let brotherly love continue" (Hebrews 13:1).

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The Free Will Baptist Press announces open house to be held on April 28, 1968, from 2 o'clock until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Many Free Will Baptists, as well as other friends, have never seen the new Press building. Thus, this will be an ideal opportunity.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Saint Mary's Free Will Baptist Church of New Bern has pledged \$10,000 to the Development Fund of Mount Olive College. The pledge will be used to sponsor a conference room in the new library in memory of the late W. B. Everett, the first full-time pastor of the church.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

On Sunday, October 27, 1968, the new Cragmont sign was dedicated as a memorial to Hubert and "Sis" Dickens in ceremonies conducted by Manager L. E. Ballard. A group of about fifty people were present for the dedication.

### ***General Administrator Named***

The Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is pleased to announce that the Rev. David C. Hansley has been named the new General Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

Rev. Hansley is no stranger to the work of the Convention. He has served the Convention in various capacities. He comes to the Convention office after serving 12 years as the director of Home Missions and Evangelism.

The Executive Committee and Rev. Hansley ask for your prayers as we begin a new phase of ministry to the Convention, its churches and ministers.

Rev. Hansley will assume the duties of the office of General Administrator on September 1, 1968.

Ray Wells, President  
Convention of Original Free Will Baptists



Dr. Pepper Worthington

## DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Warren W. Wiersbe. *Preaching & Teaching With Imagination*. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books), 400 pages.

### Introduction: Part 1

Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe gives us a creative approach to *Imagination and Life* (15–86) and *Imagination and Scripture* (89–198). He gives us hints how imagination works both in life and in Scripture. At the heart of imagination is the metaphor, a word which comes from the Greek words *met* ("across") and *pherein* (to carry). Thus, a metaphor carries across or transfers "two seemingly unrelated things and creates from this union something new" (42).

### Imagination and Life

How does the imagination work in our life? How can we use metaphor and become better communicators? Sallie McFague reminds us: "Images 'feed' concepts; concepts 'discipline' images" (41). For example, metaphors are used to unite a concept to an image when we speak of someone having "half-baked ideas" or "warmed-over theories." The connection compares ideas to food. When we speak of an idea that "died on the vine," the connection compares an idea to a plant. Eva Kittay once wrote that metaphors "rearrange the furniture of the mind" (46). She connects ideas to furniture.

A metaphor is an imaginative use of language in life. A metaphor has the power to touch the mind, move the heart, change the will. Walker Percy wrote, "Metaphors are very strange because when you put two things together, it's a way of discovering meanings which haven't been discovered before" (47).

Dr. Wiersbe insists, "Metaphors are something like our Lord's seamless garment: people can even touch the hem of the garment and experience life-changing powers" (48). (See Mark 5:25–34).

### Imagination and Scripture

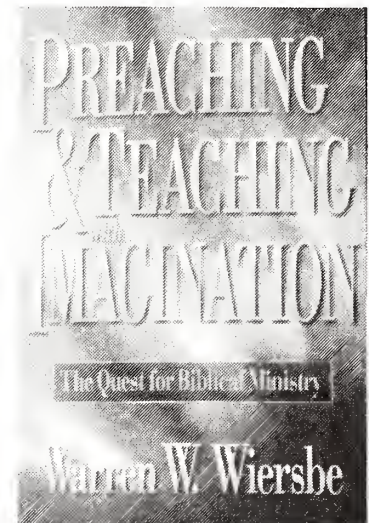
The imagination becomes the image-making faculty of the mind, creating pictures so that we can understand concepts. In a sense, the imagination "is a womb that is impregnated with the old so that it might give birth to the new" (25). It is a bridge from the right brain (creativity) to the left brain (reason).

How does the imagination relate to Scripture? In biblical stories, the real world appears but it takes the imagination "to penetrate reality and discover the truths" behind the stories (70). What destroys the sense of reality in our world are four technological wonders: *advertising* (which creates a new image of the self rather than a true view); *television* (which provides a substitute experience for a real experience); *the media expert* (one who can "sell" the image of a political candidate or event rather than the reality); *technological world* (a world of artificial experience rather than direct experiences face-to-face).

In Scripture, however, the imagination can bring the inner world of reality closer to the truth of reality. For example, darkness is associated with sin while the Bible is a lamp. Building is associated with creation while the river is associated with the water of life. To be a sower of seed and to scatter this seed is to be one of God's people who become the Greek *diasperio* ("scattered") or a "spiritual dispersion" (92) in the world. Eliphaz speaks of a corrupt person "who drinks up evil like water" (Job 15:16). To stand against evil, the Apostle Paul tells us to put on the spiritual armor that God has provided (Ephesians 6:10–18). Temptation is pictured as a wild beast (Genesis 4:7), while Jacob pours oil on the rock at Bethel as an act of worship (Genesis 28:18).

### Conclusion

Truly the imagination enhances life and Scripture. As Blaise Pascal reminds us: "Let it not be said that I have said nothing new. The arrangement of the material is new" (88).

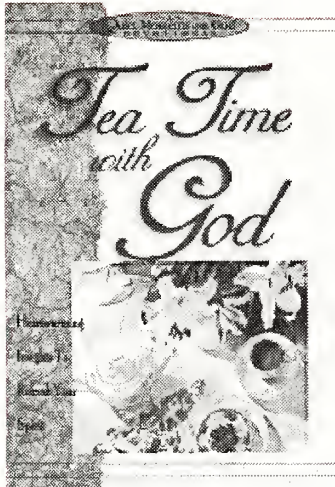


***Preaching & Teaching With Imagination* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**

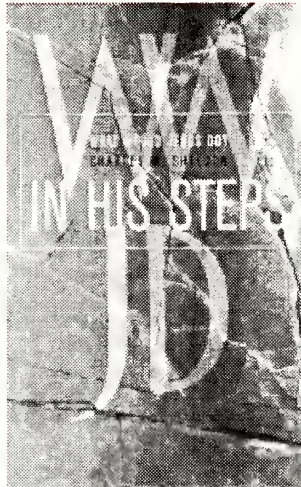


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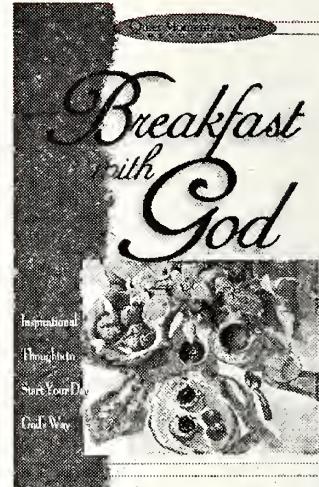
## Devotions



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In His Steps  
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August 1998

# The Free Will Baptist

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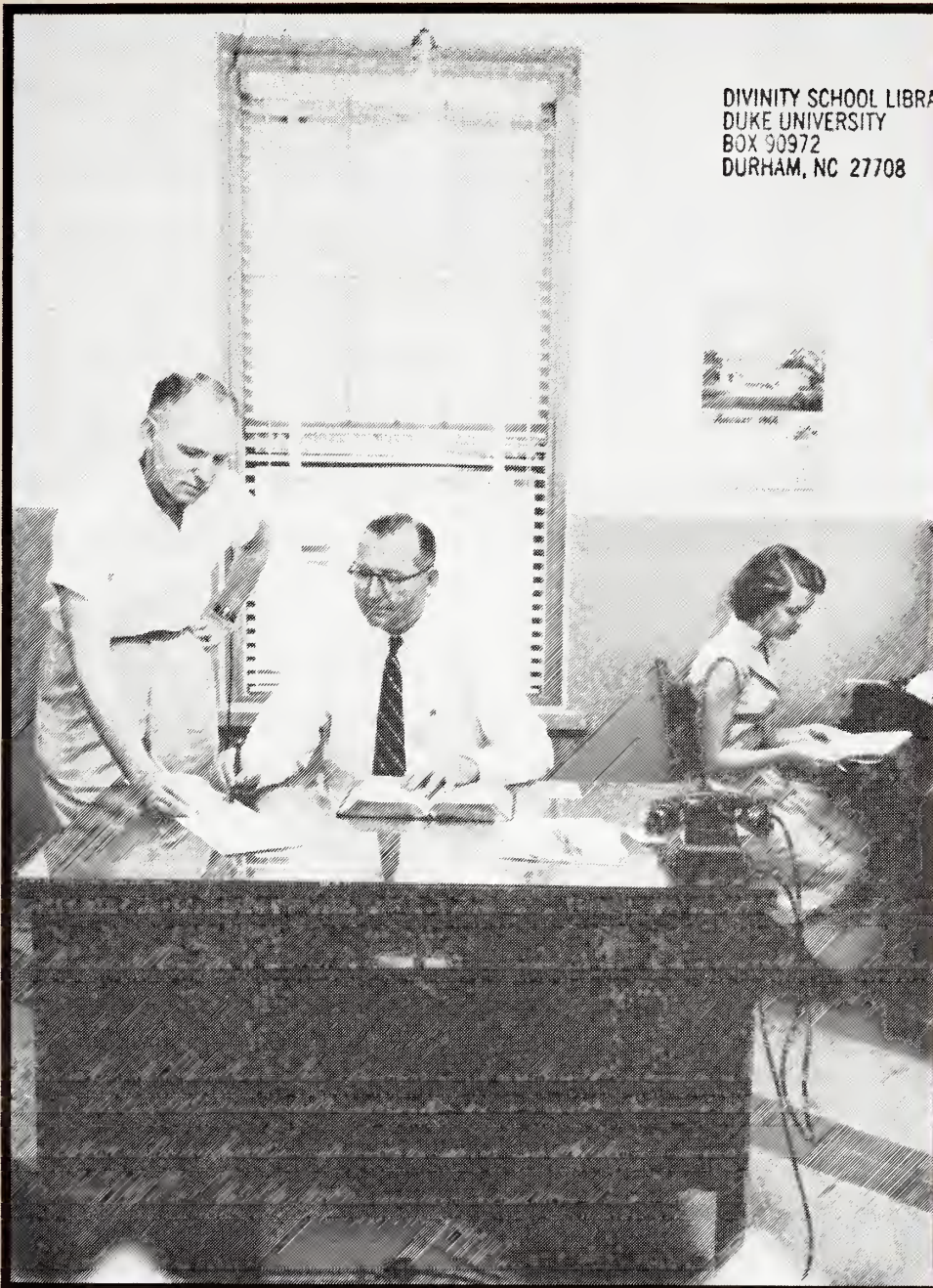
## FEATURING:

.....  
*Early History of  
the Free Will  
Baptist Press*  
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.....  
*The Eighty-Sixth  
Annual Session*  
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.....  
*Celebrating  
125 Years of  
Service*  
.....

.....  
*The Beauty of the  
Earth*  
.....



The Free Will Baptist Press Editor's Office in 1954  
Pictured: Ralph A. Bowen, Assistant Editor (standing);  
the Rev. J. O. Fort, Editor and Miss Jean Little, Secretary.



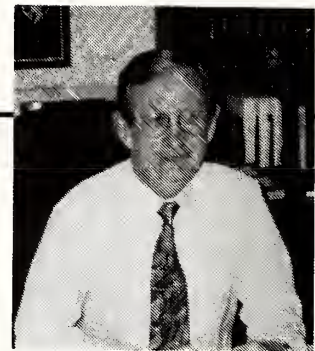
## Cragmont Ministers' Conference

The first Ministers' Conference I attended was in 1951. At that time, I was driving the Cragmont bus. Not only did I do most of the driving for the Ministers' Conference, I also made several trips (perhaps as many as seven) with other groups, including the Ladies Auxiliary Conference. I was only nineteen years old, and weighed about one hundred and thirty-eight pounds. It was, needless to say, a tough challenge and responsibility. The bus was of the school variety. There was no air conditioning and no interstates to make the trip shorter and more convenient. The trip from down East would take about ten to eleven hours, for you would travel through all the towns. The climb from Old Fort to Black Mountain was up the old, snake-like curves. It was a summer I will long remember, and also one I will always cherish. I am deeply appreciative to those ministers who were instrumental in putting me to work and giving me the opportunity to meet some of the leading persons in our denomination. Chief among them was the Rev. James A. Evans. As Paul was to Timothy, so was Brother Evans to me.

The first Ministers' Conference was held at Cragmont in 1946. It was known as "The Free Will Baptist Ministers Institute." In searching through the 1946 bound copies of *The Free Will Baptist*, I found several items pertaining to this first meeting. I did note one factor of great significance; namely, there was a lot of enthusiasm among Free Will Baptists pertaining to Cragmont. Indeed, there was ample reason — it was the first time that Free Will Baptists could attend such a place that was our own. During those early years, about thirty to thirty-five ministers would attend the sessions, which began on Monday and lasted through most of the week. There was a lot of preaching, singing, and testifying.

Attending the Ministers' Conference has always been a highlight for me, and I have attended most of them down through the years. The fellowship of those few days at Cragmont, among my fellow ministers has always meant more than words can describe. It was there that I became acquainted with many of our ministers. Without Cragmont, I would not have had the opportunity to establish such a close and lasting relationship.

Brother J. C. Griffin, in his July 10, 1946, "Notes and Quotes" gives the following report of that first Cragmont Ministers Institute:



*C. H. Sherman*

"This message goes to you from Cragmont, as God is blessing us in a great way. The morning part of the day is well filled with instructive and inspirational messages. The Five-Point Program, namely: Superannuation, Missions, Christian education, Church Finance Association, Inc., and the Orphanage were given great consideration.

"In addition to these phases of the denominational work which were carefully considered, the ministers held a thirty minute period for devotions, beginning at 8:00 AM. The afternoons were spent in recreation, some climbed mountains, others sat around and conversed on various subjects of interest, and had what Brother E. G. Holland called 'Good Fellowship.' At the evening hour of 8:00 PM everyone enjoyed the devotionals which were followed by a good sermon.

"A Ministers' Association was perfected during the morning service on Wednesday, with the following officers elected: President, Henry Melvin; R. L. Richard, vice president; N. B. Barrow, secretary; Paul Jenkins, Treasurer. The officers, together with J. P. Woodard and J. W. Alford, are to prepare the Constitution and By-Laws, and to arrange for the 1947 annual meeting of the Association.

"In attendance at Cragmont Assembly for the Ministers' Institute were the following ministers: J. A. Evans, W. H. Ivey, Henry Melvin, W. R. Williams, E. G. Holland, R. W. Allman, W. B. Raper, Wiley Ferrell, J. F. Parrish, M. L. Johnson, W. K. Jordan, R. N. Hinnant, 'Bob' Wooley, J. C. Varnell, S. A. Smith, Lloyd Vernon, D. W. Hansley, Wesley Price, W. B. Everett, J. R. Bennett, J. W. Alford, J. C. Griffin, J. P. Woolard, L. B. Manning, C. L. Patrick, J. C. Moye, Sherman H. Oakes, L. D. Gray, W. H. Calvert, J. E. Floyd, R. L. Richard, W. L. Jernigan, Carol Hansley, and A. L. Reynolds."

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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## NEXT MONTH

*September is  
Home Mission  
and  
Evangelism Month*

*August is  
Convention Promotion  
Month*



## Early History of the Free Will Baptist Press (from its beginning until 1959)

From a simple resolution passed by the General Conference of the Free Will Baptists of North Carolina in 1873, through many trials and difficulties, the Free Will Baptist Press has grown to a business worth of quarter of a million dollars.

The Free Will Baptists of North Carolina had felt for many years the need for a church paper, but it was not until the conference at Union Grove Church, Wayne County, November 5, 1873, that a resolution was passed authorizing a paper. After much discussion, the Rev. E. R. Ellis volunteered to undertake the publication of a paper. The Rev. R. K. Hearn offered a resolution authorizing Mr. Ellis to draw on the treasurer "for a sufficient amount to pay for the printing of a prospectus." The work of the publication soon began.

The location of the first Free Will Baptist printing office was at Fremont on the W & W Railroad. The paper was named by the editor, Mr. Ellis, the "Free Will Baptist Advocate" and was issued once a week.

After being published at Fremont for almost a year, the paper and printing office was moved to Toisnot, ten miles north of Wilson. Toisnot is now known as Elm City. Here the name of the paper was changed to the "Toisnot Transcript," and carried much local news not connected with the Free Will Baptist denomination. This, along with the fact that the name *Free Will Baptist* was dropped, caused much dissatisfaction and many people refused to subscribe. This resulted in the failure of the enterprise sometime during the year of 1878.

Sometime after the publication had been discontinued, the Rev. L. E. Johnson and the Rev. R. H. Holland took charge of the equipment and moved it back to Fremont. The name was changed back to the "Free Will Baptist Advocate." But even after this effort to please the people, the publication failed again in 1879.

At the conference held at Piney Grove

Church, Pitt County, in 1880, there was a resolution passed that the conference operate the paper. The Rev. R. K. Hearn was employed as editor. He started the paper again at Fremont and remained there about one year, after which he moved to New Bern. When the conference took charge of the paper the word *Advocate* was dropped from the name, making it "The Free Will Baptist." It still carries that name today.

According to the minutes of the General Conference held at Star of Bethlehem, Pamlico County, November 8-10, 1883, the Rev. R. K. Hearn, the editor, made the following report:

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Amount Received for Subscriptions |             |
| During Conference Year            | \$ 379.54   |
| Received for Advertisement        | 128.55      |
| Total                             | \$ 508.09   |
| Amount Due on the Books           |             |
| Total                             | 290.92      |
|                                   | \$ 799.01   |
| Expenses for Year:                |             |
| Expenses for Year Other Than      |             |
| Editor's Wages                    | \$ 626.99   |
| Editor's Wages for Year           | 400.00      |
|                                   | \$1,026.99  |
| Deficit from Year Before          | 84.25       |
|                                   | \$ 1,111.24 |

Even after the conference took over the operation of the paper, it did not give entire satisfaction. Many people wanted a change. So the conference at Black Jack Church rescinded the resolution passed at Piney Grove Church in 1880. They passed another resolution to loan the press to the Rev. R. K. Hearn "for one year and as much longer as may be thought proper, provided he publish it in the interest of the Free Will Baptist." It was published on this plan until February, 1889, at which time Mr. Hearn decided to give it up because of ill health.

In 1889 a company was formed and took charge. It was moved to Snow Hill and the

(This article was originally printed in the September 15, 1959, issue of *The Free Will Baptist*. Complete credit goes to Reuben Cherry, who at the time of its writing was a student at Mount Olive College.)

Rev. W. L. Bilbro was employed as editor. He remained editor until April 15, 1890, at which time the Rev. J. M. Barfield replaced him. Mr. Barfield published the paper at Snow Hill for almost a year. Then in 1891 the press was moved to Ormondsville and remained there until March, 1895.

In the spring of 1895, the press moved to Ayden. Although it has not left Ayden, it continued to move around within the town for many years. When it first came to Ayden, it was located on the east side of the railroad where it stayed until 1913, when a fire burned the building almost to the ground. In September of that same year, minutes of the First Annual Session of the North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptists held at Bailey records the following resolution:

"1. That the charter of the Free Will Baptist Publishing Company be changed or amended that it shall read: Authorized capital stock \$10,000, to begin business when \$3,000 had been paid on stock.

"2. That the original stock be considered as so much paid in, at its first cash value, representing what was paid in in actual cash on its value.

"3. That as soon as the \$3,000 shall have been paid in that the secretary of the publishing company call the stockholders together in a meeting for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors who shall meet and elect all necessary officers.

"4. That earnest solicitations be made to the various conferences, union meetings, associations, etc. in the Free Will Baptist denomination as well as to all worthy citizens and brethren who might be induced to take stock. The value of each share to be \$10.00.

"5. That none of the new stock paid in shall be for the liquidation of any debt contracted by the company prior to this date except for subscriptions.

"The newly organized body under the amended charter shall, however, take all the business of the old company in hand after it meets and organizes."

The following were appointed to represent the different conferences in the called meeting of the publishing company: Western, R. F. Pittman; Eastern, M. C. Prescott; Central, W. W. Bullard; Cape Fear, J. F. Casey.

In March, 1914, the company was reorganized and the name was changed from the Free Will Baptist Publishing Company to the Ayden Free Will Baptist Press Company.

Then in the spring of 1916, the organization went broke. Most of the employees quit, including the Rev. E. T. Phillips who had been editor since 1898. Only the general manager, the Rev. J. C. Griffin, remained.

During the summer of 1916, the Rev. T. B. Mellete was employed as editor. However, both Mr. Mellete and Mr. Griffin left September 1, 1916, when Mr. C. K. Dunn took over as editor and general manager.

In 1917 the building which the company was occupying proved inadequate. Mr. A. T. Dawson, a well-to-do farmer, built a new brick building behind the old high school and offered it to the press. This move was made in 1917.

Mr. C. K. Dunn served as editor and general manager until 1921 when both jobs proved too much for one man. Then the Rev. E. T. Phillips was induced to return as editor. Mr. Dunn remained as business manager until his retirement in 1952.

In 1926 the charter of the company was changed and made a non-profit corporation under the laws of North Carolina. On January 1, 1928, the press moved in a building on the west side of the railroad.

In 1934 the Rev. I. J. Blackwelder replaced the Rev. E. T. Phillips as editor. He was editor for only a year, after which the Rev. R. B. Spencer became editor.

During the editorship and under the management of Mr. C. K. Dunn, the press purchased the building it now occupies in 1942 for \$3,500. Another \$3,500 was spent on repairs.

In 1952 the Rev. R. B. Spencer retired as editor and the Rev. F. B. Cherry became editor. Mr. Cherry was editor for about two years, when the Rev. J. O. Fort became editor. Mr. Fort is still editor and general manager of the organization.

Through many ups-and-downs the Free Will Baptist Press has grown until it now has a value of \$230,726.23. It publishes Sunday school and league literature for Free Will Baptist churches in 33 states, in addition to "The Free Will Baptist" which has a circulation of about four thousand.





## Special Service Planned Celebrating 125 Years of Service



Marlene LeFever,  
Director of Church Relations for  
David C. Cook Church Ministries.

A major highlight of this year's session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will be the special service on Tuesday evening, September 15. Traditionally designated as "The Night of Evangelism," the service will be in celebration of the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of *The Free Will Baptist*, the denomination's monthly magazine, and in celebration of the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Press.

The featured speaker for this special celebration will be Marlene LeFever, Director of Church Relations for David C. Cook Church Ministries.

Her most recent book is *Parties with a Purpose —*

*Laying the Groundwork for Discipleship & Evangelism. Learning Styles — Reaching Everyone God Gave You to Teach and Creative Teaching Methods* received Awards of Merit from the Evangelical Christian Publisher's Association (CBA).

She is editor of a quarterly letter of affirmation for Sunday school teachers, *Teacher Touch* (circulation: 37,000) and a Christian Education monthly article service used by 125 magazines with a combined circulation of over a million. She serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Christianity Today's Leadership Journal*.

Past president of the Evangelical Press Association, she has written for many Christian magazines, including *Discipleship Journal*, *Evangelizing Today's Child*, *Decision*, *Moody Monthly*, *Single Adult Ministries Journal*, and *Youth Worker Journal*.

In 1996-97, she taught through interactive phone conferencing at 55 colleges and seminaries. She has served as adjunct faculty at North American Baptist Seminary, Ontario (Canada) Theological Seminary, Princeton Seminary, Talbot Theological Seminary, Denver Seminary, and Canadian Bible College. She delivered the 1992 doctoral lectures at the Asia Graduate School of

Theology, Philippines. She has pioneered in video curriculum, producing *Present Shock* with Tony Campolo, *A Christian View of Money, Sex and Power* with Richard Foster, and *Let's Be Friends* with Joni Eareckson Tada.

Each year she speaks to approximately 20,000 Christian education volunteers. A frequent speaker at Sunday school conventions, writers' conferences, professional organizational meetings and churches, she has done cross-cultural Christian education in Mexico City and Manila, and has led Christian education seminars in the United States, Canada, Australia, England, Northern Ireland, and Scotland.

Other participants will be Free Will Baptist Press board members. Highlights of the history of the Free Will Baptist Press will be given by the Editor. Mount Olive College Choir will render special music. There will be a special presentation made to Union Grove Church to commemorate the decision of the General Conference, meeting at the Church in 1873, to begin a "church organ." The North Carolina Ministerial Association will also make a presentation in recognition of the 125th Anniversary. Following the service, a reception will be held in the Murphy Center, hosted by the Convention.

A special invitation is extended to all to attend this Service of Celebration.



1873 - 1998

*Celebrating 125 Years  
of Service  
to Original Free Will Baptists*



# The Beauty of the Earth

by Ashlea Meads, YFA, First Free Will Baptist Church, Tarboro  
Non-Fiction

Looking out the bus window, I can see God's magnificent works. As I look into the sky, I see big white fluffy clouds scattered around ever so carefully on their bright blue canvas. The mountains are so graceful, and it seems that they are reaching out to the Heavens. While riding through all of this amazing beauty, I thought of God and how He created it all. I realized that if He could do this-make something as beautiful as the mountains - then He could certainly care for me.

I stand amazed at the beauty of this earth that we live on and try to imagine Heaven. Sometimes it is hard to see how something could be more wonderful or spectacular than the beautiful mountains, and I think of Heaven and of how it will be more wonderful and spectacular. When I try to imagine this I find it difficult.

It is nice to know that there is such a place because even with its magnificent beauty, the earth houses many trials and tribulations. I think about when I get to Heaven I won't have these things to worry about anymore. In my life I find myself often thinking about death and Heaven. Although sometimes I try to forget the violence and hurt that can be found on this earth, it is still all around. I cannot wait to get to Heaven and be surrounded by love. It has to be a great feeling of joy when you cross through those pearly gates and enter into an eternity of pure love and happiness.

When I think of all the people I once knew, that have now had that wonderful experience, I try to remember that they are happy; however, not having them here with me is hard. I feel that I have experienced the loss of loved ones more than most people my age, and in a way it has helped me to mature. I realize that you never know whether or not you will live to see tomorrow.

Accepting the suddenness in which unexpected death can come was shown to me when a person that at one point had been a very big part of my life was called to leave this earth much earlier than anyone ever expected. For a long time, Brandon Whitlark spend every afternoon at my house, and then he grew up and didn't need a babysitter anymore, thus we grew apart. He always had and always will have a special place in my heart. One morning I woke up to find my mother crying, and just like that, I found out he was gone. At the young age of seventeen, Brandon was driving down the road, lost control of his truck and was killed. This has shown me more than anything else that we should live each day as our last.

I try to witness to others because of this. I often encourage my friends not to put off witnessing about Jesus or accepting Him as their Savior. Besides the fact that you do not know when you will be called to live with Jesus, you also do not know when Jesus will return. In Matthew 24:36, it says: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." It is very important to me to go to Heaven and it should be in everyone else's lives also.

## Editor's Note:

For the next several issues of *The Free Will Baptist* we will publish the "Christian Writing" essay winners from the various district Youth Conventions.

# Layman's League

## Dates to Remember —

### August 1

Father and Son Breakfast (Part of Festival '98 with Franklin Graham) Mingos Coliseum, ECU, Greenville. Speaker: Tom Landry.

### August 6

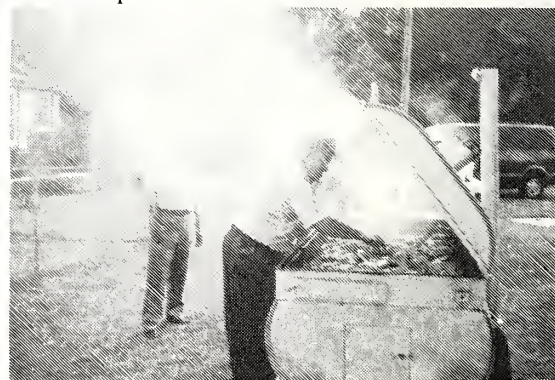
Layman's League Executive Board, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7:30 PM.

### August 17

Eastern Conference Layman's League will meet at Camp Vandemere. Supper begins at 7:00 PM followed by meeting at 7:45 PM.

## Layman's League Family Night

The Layman's League of Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg, NC, sponsored a Church Family Night on June 12, 1998. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal which included barbeque chicken prepared by the Layman's League. It was a great time of fellowship for all.



Members of Layman's League prepare the chicken.



The meal is served.

# Camp Vandemere

## Our Family Enrichment Center

### *"A Good Time Was Had by All"*

—by the Rev. Owen Arthur

I feel that this best describes the Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat which was held the first weekend in June at Camp Vandemere. This weekend was a great success and enjoyed by all those who attended.

On Friday night those who attended enjoyed a delicious supper with "catfish" being the main dish. We would like to say "thank you" for those who provided for and prepared the meal. There was plenty to eat and we all enjoyed it.

After supper most of the men gathered in the lobby of the dorm. Several of the men had brought their guitars. After they got them tuned, they began to play and sing. Then we all began to join in as they played many of our favorite hymns of the church. After a time of "picking and singing," they stopped and had a time for prayer requests. When all the requests were heard, we all stood and the men who had special requests were in the middle while the rest laid hands on them, prayed for them, as well as all the other prayer requests. There was also a time of testimonies, and you could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. By this time, it was beginning to get a little late for some of us and we slowly slipped into the dorm and turned in for the night. Others stayed in the lobby playing, singing, and fellowshiping until they just couldn't go any longer.

On Saturday morning we had a delicious breakfast prepared for us by our manager and his wife. As we sat at breakfast we were still talking about the good service we had the night before in the dorm. By this time others were beginning to come in to join us for the activities of the day. After a time of relaxing, we started the morning service, and it just kept getting better and better as the day went on. We had

three good speakers on Saturday, good food, wonderful fellowship, and "a good time was had by all." I am looking forward to next year's retreat and hope that more of our men will participate.

Things are going good at the camp after just a little rocky start. We had some difficulties securing a dietitian for the camp, but finally the Lord sent us a fine Christian lady, Mr. Linda Johnson from New Bern. Our first week was to be directed by the Rev. Ralph Sumner, but brother Ralph broke his hip a couple of weeks earlier and wasn't able to be at the camp for the week. He did make it for one day; it's hard to keep a good man down. We appreciate all those who rallied around Ralph and took charge of his week, pressing forward for the cause of Christ. Eight precious young people were saved. To God be the Glory!

We did get our new ice machine installed and it is working fine. Our manager and the kitchen staff are pleased since the old one would work a while and then quit. Now they don't have to worry about having enough ice. Also, we were able to get the air conditioner ready in the boy's dorm and in the lobby. This took a little more work that we had expected as we had to rewire the entire building. Praise the Lord, this has been completed and is now up to the latest building code. We shouldn't have to worry about this for many years to come.

The new bunk beds and mattresses are just great. I made a special point to sleep on one the Friday night I stayed with the laymen. We made twenty new bunk beds and purchased new twin-size mattresses to go on them. As I mentioned, they do sleep very good. Why don't you come down and stay awhile and try one out for yourself.

Several concerned friend's have installed safety rails on all the top bunks. We appreciate those who are always willing to go the extra mile for the camp.

Let me remind you of our all day gospel sing by the river on Saturday, August 1. I hope you are making plans to be with us that day. We plan a full day of activities for the whole family. Come prepared to enjoy good singing and good food. Don't forget to bring plenty of money for the cake auction. Miss Vera Morris just might have another chocolate cake for sale.

We now have bulletins for churches who would like to have a special day recognizing the camp. They have the lighthouse logo on the front and the camp name on them. If you would like some for your church, please contact our chairman and he will be happy to see that you get some.

Some of you have already heard that our manager and his wife, Aldric and Julia Gaskins, have resigned, effective September 30, 1998. The camp has enjoyed, appreciated, and thanked the Lord for sending them to us. Now they would like more time for their family. This leaves us with an opening for a new manager. I believe that the Lord has someone for this position and I would like to ask you to be much in prayer about this and for the camp as we seek to fill this position. If you are interested, please contact the Rev. Owen Arthur at 660 Half Moon Road, New Bern, NC 28560 or phone 252-633-1185.

Again, I would like to say thank you for all your prayers and the support you are giving to Camp Vandemere. We have come a long way, and we still have a long way to go. Souls are being saved, hearts are being blessed, and God's name is being glorified.



# Denominational Ministries

## FOREIGN MISSIONS

### Don't Miss The Annual Convention Mission Rally

September 16, 1998 7:30 PM  
Special Guest: Mrs. Lucy Timmons

College Hall, Mount Olive College

Board of Foreign Missions  
(OFWB International) In Charge

Come visit the fields with us through music,  
testimonies and visual aids.

Program Personalities: Missionaries, Tour Groups,  
Short-Term Team Members



### WHY NOT CALL OFF PRAYER MEETING AND COME TO THE RALLY?

This will be an exciting evening that you will long remember.

**SPECIAL OFFERING:** Your special offering at this Mission Rally is vital for the continued growth of your missions program. Begin to pray NOW and ask God to reveal to you what your contribution should be this year.

**REMEMBER:** Your special gift to Foreign Missions at the Mission Rally must be designated. If for some reason you cannot attend the Rally, you can mail your gift and receive credit for the Rally offering.



## News Letter from India and Nepal — by Dr. E. M. Lall

We are grateful to the Lord for manifold blessings in the recent past. Our gratitude is due to the Rev. Harold Jones our Director-Treasurer Board of the Foreign Missions for his encouragement and financial assistance that we are able to work in His vineyard.

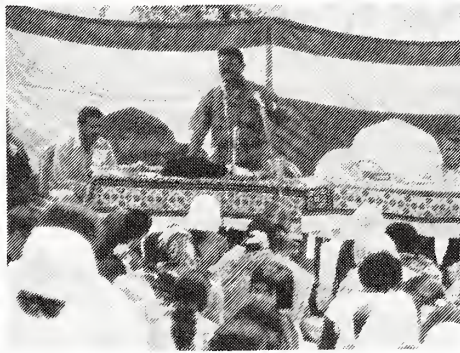


Evangelization is the main theme of our church and we never lag behind in proclaiming the truth in our rural places where 80 percent of the total population of the country resides that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only source of salvation to mankind. Fourteen new converts have been added in His Kingdom in the month of May in the circuits of Dalelnagar, four; Bareilly, three; Bisalpur, five; and Bharkunya, two under the pastorate of Balvant Masih, Manoj K. Charan, Ratan Paul and Deacon Jamuna Prasad respectively. The Rev. William Samuel, Field-Director helped the three rural churches in conducting baptism.

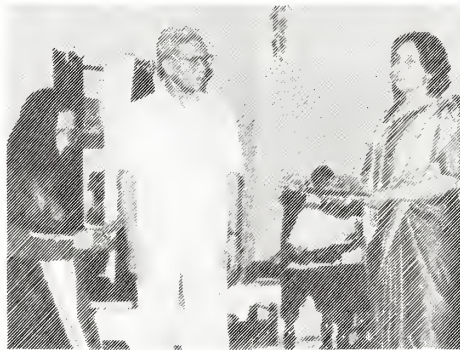


We have been able to supply Bibles, New Testaments and other literature to our ministers in Nepal in Nepali

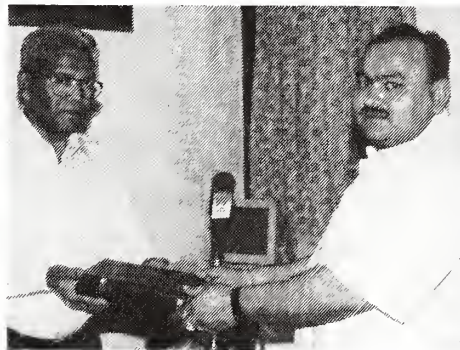
language. Sunday schools of smaller children have been started there which were not in the offing earlier. The four girls pioneered in Sunday school study and were given small gifts by their pastors.



A new congregation has come up at Bazpur ahead of Rudrapur. It was adopted by us on May 18, 1998 with a membership of 64. The Rev. Anil Lall preached in the worship service held there.



This is the first time that our churches celebrated Mother's Day on May 10, 1998. Ladies in our churches took special interest and the role of the mother was preached by them from the references of the Bible.



Bibles and Gospels were supplied by us for the ministry in prison. Reports coming in are encouraging. I was told by one of the pastors partly engaged in this work that the prisoners expect a miracle as St. Paul and Silas did!



The citizens of Bareilly have established an organization called 'The Lok Kalyan Samiti' to ensure that justice is given to the most under privileged and their problems are resolved as early as possible. Only our church was invited to participate in the meeting which was attended to by the officers and citizens of the whole district of Bareilly. I was made the Chairman for the meeting.



Another big organization called 'Quami Ekta' which aims peaceful living by the people of all religions.

Since this organization was initiated from our church campus I was honoured by the citizens and highest officers of Bareilly. Our participation in such organizations gives us an opportunity to represent Christianity and to preach the truth of our faith.



## *Continuous Production of Pastors, Lay Volunteers and Church Workers* — by Zacarias I. Perocillo

When thousands of people are underfed, therefore malnourished, all types of diseases attack them. This situation is caused by the El Nino. This is so because long drought means no harvest of any crop. Generally, people under such conditions either try to get closer to God and Heaven or become suicidal and try to do anything just to get food by all means. The result is chaos.

Many church people are underfed. Because of this situation, I'm encouraging the church people and the church workers specially to pray harder everyday and work hard also to get a living like fishing, and do any legal and moral means wherein they can get food, and not depend on doleouts from the government. More than all, I told all church workers to encourage their people and neighbors to give their people and friends encouragements through the Word of God daily, so they will not lose hope. We are taking advantage of the situation mentioned above for the sake of the gospel, because we know that people with problems try their best to listen to the Word of God. Of course, based on our Filipino Christian culture, we are sharing our food to our relatives, Christians friends, and neighbors who visit us in our homes. Our house in Cebu City, which we have decided to be used as a Mission House, got the most of the visitors, who dine and sleep with us. Plus, the sick people from the province and people of all types with problems that need our counsel. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

The bottom line of all this is not to beg from the Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, with anything material, but rather to inform them as Mission Partners, so that they can pray harder for us. For no amount of

material blessings could truly help a thousand hungry people here until God helps us in such a way that everybody affected will try to help himself from the predicament.

What does continuous training of Pastors and lay volunteer workers in the church do with the problem as narrated above?

Please note that the Christian gospel is developmental in nature. For centuries, people who internalize the Biblical teaching are really better off even economically speaking than idolatrous worshippers, as in the case of most Filipinos. Yes, we are greatly affected in this economic crises and disaster in our land. However, we are not part of the cause. Yes, there are very few idol worshippers who are materially rich, but I've observed that they are not happy or feel safe living in our country. Thus, many of them are residing in foreign countries. Most of them are not even a blessing to many Filipinos because they give a beggars' pay. Thus, training

our Pastors and lay people in the gospel work will help our people see the light, more so escape being cursed by God for idol worshipping. More than all, saving their souls from hell. Extreme poverty is hell on earth. Saved people escape this by leaving their vices behind, depart from all types of criminal acts and live a truly free life, even with meager material resources.

Shown are pictures of those Pastors and lay people who attended the last Theological Education by Extension training program from May 19-30, 1998, in Cebu City, Philippines.



### **Short-Term Teams Philippines and Mexico 1999**

We are now receiving applications for the 1999 Short-Term Team opportunities. If you are interested in joining a team, you need to act NOW! Call 252-746-4963 or write the Board of Foreign Missions for details. **DON'T PROCRASTINATE!** We can only take a limited number on each team. Applications are approved in the order they are received.

## *Gearing Up for the Fall Term*

The Fall term begins for traditional four-year students on the Mount Olive campus on Wednesday, August 26. The College can accommodate new freshmen and transfer students right up to the first day of classes. If your plans are still unsettled, it is not too late to contact the College to enroll for the fall term. However, the sooner, the better. Call Tim Woodard, Vickie Stroud, Matt Green, or Ernie Taylor at 800-653-0854, or contact Tim by e-mail at [twoodard@exchange.moc.edu](mailto:twoodard@exchange.moc.edu), and get things rolling.

In the meantime, students, faculty, and staff are getting ready for the 1998 fall term.

More than 120 high school graduates attended freshman advising days in April and July to learn about college life, take placement tests, meet advisors, and register for classes.

"We have a few vacancies in our residence hall," said Ms. Karen Van Norman, Vice President for Student Development. "We encourage students to apply now if they are interested in living on-campus this fall."

Dr. Vincent Beach, Vice President for Academic Affairs, said that new faculty, most with PhD's, have been hired, and new courses, such as Physics and Beginning Violin, have been added to the schedule.

"Additionally, we added teacher education to our curriculum last year," Dr. Beach said, "And it is proving to be very popular among students. We expect to see more courses added to the teacher program this year."

Dr. Richard Bounds, chairman of the Science and Mathematics Department, notes that, in addition to Physics, we will be offering a mathematic major for the first time in January 1999."

In the Fine Arts Department, Dr. Henry Goodman will be offering introductory string courses.

"These are highlights," Dr. Beach said. "Every academic department and our School of Business are expanding the curriculum to give students more choices and opportunities to pursue their personal goals and career interests."



*Visitors — Erin Smithwick (second from left) and her mom, Roseann (center) visited the College during the spring. Erin recently graduated from Aurora High School, and the Smithwicks attend Core Point Free Will Baptist Church. Hosting the Smithwicks are Tracy Wheeler (left) a junior from First FWB Church of Wilson, Tim Woolard, Director of Admissions, and Alison Williams (right), a sophomore from Cragmount Assembly at Black Mountain.*

## *Events at MOC in August*

|                      |                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, August 3     | 9:00 AM, The Fourth Annual James A. Evans Lecture, Murphy Regional Center<br>12:00 PM, P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award Luncheon, Murphy Regional Center           |
| Wednesday, August 12 | 5:30 PM, Cohort MOD #33 Convention, MOC at New Bern                                                                                                         |
| Thursday, August 13  | Fall I Term classes begin at Seymour Johnson AFB in Goldsboro                                                                                               |
| Wednesday, August 19 | 5:30 PM, Cohort MOD #5 Convocation, MOC at Research Triangle Park                                                                                           |
| Saturday, August 22  | 9:00 AM, Free Will Baptist Youth Executive Board Meeting, Hennessee Room, Murphy Regional Center.                                                           |
| Sunday, August 23    | 1:00 PM, Freshman arrive, Residence Halls                                                                                                                   |
| Tuesday, August 25   | 8:00 AM, Continuing students return, transfer orientation, registration verification, MOC campus.<br>5:30 PM, Cohort MOD #21 Convocation, MOC at Wilmington |
| Wednesday, August 26 | 8:00 AM, Fall Term classes begin, MOC Campus                                                                                                                |



## Planning Sessions for 1998 Dinners

Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, has begun planning for the 1998 fall dinners for Mount Olive College. During the month of August, Planning Sessions will be held in each county to make final arrangements for the annual dinners that are held in October and November. At each planning session, literature concerning the dinner program and information about the College will be distributed. Also the date and location of each county dinner will be confirmed. Representatives from each church, including the local chairperson and pastor, are encouraged to attend the planning session in their county.

## Church Ministries Offered in New Bern

The Church Ministries Program will be offered at Mount Olive College in New Bern starting September 22. This Church Ministries Program allows individuals seeking to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and strengthen their preparation for ministry to complete this major while attending classes one night per week in a little over a year. The classes will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM at the College's location in New Bern at 2131 South Glenburnie Road.

The program is open to ministers and lay persons.

"I'm excited about taking this program to New Bern," said Religion Department chair, Dr. David Hines. "We have an outstanding group of professors lined up to teach these classes. It also looks like the first group is going to be a diverse group of folks — from professional people looking for a deeper walk with Christ to licensed ministers."

For information on this program, contact the New Bern office at 800-868-8479 or 633-4464.

For those who may be interested in a more traditional approach to college, the Religion Department will be offering a number of classes this fall during the day on Tuesday and Thursdays. For information on these classes, contact Dr. David Hines at 919-658-6948. Scholarships are available for licensed and ordained ministers.

## Appreciation Dinner for 1997-1998 Bridge Builders

The 1997-1998 Bridge Builders will be honored at a dinner in the Lois K. Murphy Regional center on Saturday, September 26, at 6:00 PM. All Bridge Builders and friends of the college are invited to this dinner.

Through this event, Mount Olive College will honor the 1,702 Bridge Builders who gave at the 1997 dinners by sharing with them a program on inspirational church music presented by the College Concert Choir and Free Spirit. Free Spirit is a smaller vocal ensemble group than the full Concert Choir whose purpose is to minister the gospel through Christian music. Dr. Alan Armstrong directs both the Choir and Free Spirit. This program allows Bridge Builders to see first hand some of the students whose lives they are affecting through their support.

Nearly 600 people attended the 1997 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner. In order for the College to adequately prepare, reservations must be made prior to Tuesday, September 22, by contacting Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 (Telephone 919-658-2502 or 800-653-0854).



*Free Spirit is a twelve member vocal ensemble that spreads the gospel through Christian music. The group, along with the Mount Olive College Concert Choir, will present a program at this year's Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 26, in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center on the Mount Olive campus.*





## High School Counselors Visit MOC

Each summer the North Carolina Center of Independent Higher Education sponsors the School Counselors Tour of North Carolina private colleges and universities. The tour offers an excellent opportunity for high school counselors to learn about the diversity and wealth of programs provided by the state's independent colleges. Mount Olive College was one of 13 colleges visited on the eastern tour held June 21-26.

At the conclusion of the visit to the campus, the counselors evaluated their visit based on information gained, presentation, the tour, and overall impression. On a 4.00 scale, Mount Olive College received a rating of 3.84. The high rating was accompanied by comments, some of which are provided here.

"Most personal visit we have had. Hooray for a church affiliated school that does not act ashamed to be church affiliated."

"People were very friendly and warm. I appreciate the thoughtfulness of the admissions people and time spent by everyone."

"It is a joy to meet and talk to administrators, faculty, staff, and students who are not embarrassed to tell the world we continue to embrace Christian ethics, teachings, and family."

"Good information, organized tour, a college with strong religious values that is implementing plans for the student in the future. Enthusiastic staff."

"I really felt at home."

"Wonderful — you know who you are, and you communicate your mission so well! I will definitely recommend Mount Olive College to appropriate students."

"First class treatment! Very informative — a refreshing alternative to the regular college scene."

"Great campus, like the atmosphere, innovative focus!"

"Will recommend it to my (Connecticut) students!"

"Great student representatives, enthusiastic about Mount Olive. Nice school that seems to offer a good environment for traditional and nontraditional students."



*A group of high school counselors visited Mount Olive College and 12 other private colleges and universities June 21-26 to become familiar with the schools' programs and campuses. They spent the night of June 24 on the Mount Olive campus and had nice things to say about their visit to our College.*



A special service was held at St. Paul Free Will Baptist Church near Newton Grove, NC, on June 28 in thanksgiving and honor of the Rev. Edward W. Miles and Mrs. Bessie F. Miles for their many years of service to the Free Will Baptist Church and their generosity to the Mount Olive College. In the photo, Dr. W. Burkette Raper is presenting an endowment certificate to the Miles for the Charitable Remainder Unitrust they established for scholarships for future ministerial students. Looking on are (from the left) Dr. J. William Byrd and (from the right) the Miles' adult children, Mitchell, Gail and Wendy.



### *Cape Fear Conference Has Celebrate Jesus 2000 Meeting*

On Saturday, May 30, 1998, approximately 100 representatives from the churches in the Cape Fear district met at the Saint Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church of Newton Grove, North Carolina, to learn how their children could participate in the *Celebrate Jesus 2000* movement.



*The Rev. David C. Hansley, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, sharing with Dr. Raper, President Emeritus of Mount Olive College, the Rev. Scott Casey of the Hopewell Church, and the Rev. Jesse Fulcher of the Shady Grove Church, information regarding how to share the "Jesus" Video within their communities.*



*The Rev. David C. Hansley sharing with the pastor of the Saint Paul Church how the "Harvest" Video has challenged so many to reach their community for Christ.*



*The Rev. Jesse Fulcher, Pastor of the Shady Grove Church, observing the display.*



*Saint Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church of Newton Grove, NC.*



## Cape Fear Conference Has Celebrate Jesus 2000 Meeting — Cont....



*Ladies of the St. Paul Church preparing lunch.*



*The attendees at lunch.*

These are exciting days for those of us who serve Jesus Christ. While our enemy is on a destructive rampage across America, our Lord is moving even more aggressively to advance His Kingdom throughout this nation. This is a most strategic and urgent hour — a time of incredible opportunity for all of us who seek to follow Jesus Christ as our Leader and Lord!

God willing, in just a few months we will be embarking on one of the greatest collaborative movements of evangelism, praying and outreach in the history of our nation under the banner of *Celebrate Jesus 2000*. We believe that our Lord is calling His Church to pray for every man, woman, young person and child in America by name — and then to lovingly and appropriately share the gospel with them. However, the question is whether the Church in America is ready for such an outreach. This is not something “we can do for God.” Instead, it is something which “Jesus Christ must do” through His servants who make themselves available to Him as vessels filled with the love, purity and humility of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit.

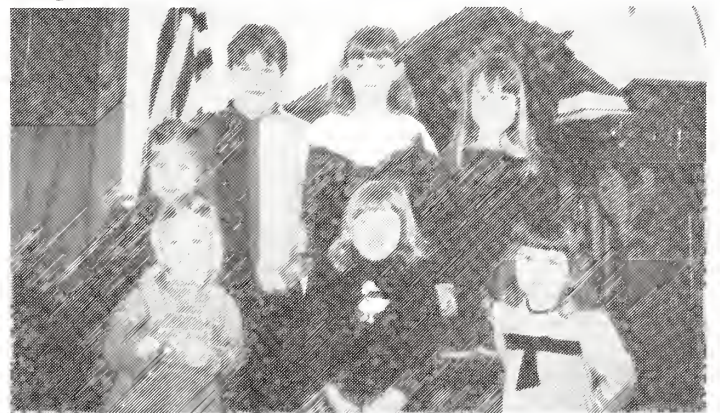
*Celebrate Jesus 2000* is a national evangelistic initiative of Mission America, a coalition of over 300 national Christian leaders who represent approximately 160,000 churches, denominations, parachurch ministries and ministry networks. *Celebrate Jesus 2000* has been endorsed by the *National Association of Evangelicals* as its evangelistic focus for the next three years. It has also been endorsed by the *Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*.

Will we, as a denomination, assure the *Celebrating of Jesus* as Lord as we close the second millennium? *Celebrate Jesus 2000* can be the vehicle to help us in casting the vision for this strategic time in our denominational history.

For more information, please contact Home Missions and Evangelism at (252) 746-4963, or write PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

## Mount Zion Youth Participate in Seed Club

Under the leadership of their new pastor, the Rev. Billy Reynolds, the children of Mount Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church of Roper, North Carolina, are learning to give for ministry. Fourteen children participated in the Seed Club for Home Missions and Evangelism, helping to Expand His Kingdom.



Those who participated were: Gini Phelps, Belcher Phelps, Chanin Davis, Michaela Davis, Katlyn Reynolds, Kristina Sawyer, Chelsea Mizell, Austin Phelps, Hunter Ambrose, Haley Ambrose, Shane Taylor, Courtney Harrison, Jamie Hope, and Claire Jones.



# August

| SUN | MON                                                                                                                                                           | TUE                                                          |               |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 26  | 27                                                                                                                                                            | 28                                                           | 29            |
| 2   | 3<br>9:00 AM, The 4th Annual James A. Evans Lecture, Murphy Regional Center, MOC<br>12:00 PM, P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award Luncheon, Murphy Regional Center, MOC | 4                                                            | 5             |
| 9   | 10                                                                                                                                                            | 11                                                           | 12<br>Conve   |
| 16  | 17<br>Eastern Conference Layman's League will meet at Camp Vandemere. Supper begins at 7:00 PM following by meeting at 7:45 PM.                               | 18                                                           | 19<br>Conve   |
| 23  | 24                                                                                                                                                            | 25<br>5:30 PM, Cohort MOD #21 Convocation, MOC at Wilmington | 26<br>8:00 AM |
| 30  | 31                                                                                                                                                            |                                                              |               |

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PR

Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Remember \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                | THU                                                                       | FRI | SAT                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                | 30                                                                        | 31  | 1<br>Layman's League, Father and Son<br>Breakfast (Part of Festival '98 with<br>Franklin Graham) Minges<br>Coliseum, ECU<br><br>"Singin' by the River"<br>Camp Vandemere, 9:00 AM |
|                                                | 6<br>Layman's League Executive Board,<br>VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7:30 PM | 7   | 8                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| hort MOD #33<br>OC at New Bern                 | 13<br>Fall I Term classes begin at<br>Seymour Johnson AFB in<br>Goldsboro | 14  | 15                                                                                                                                                                                |
| hort MOD #5<br>OC at Research<br>Triangle Park | 20                                                                        | 21  | 22<br>9:00 AM, Free Will Baptist Youth<br>Executive Board Meeting,<br>Hennessee Room, Murphy<br>Regional Center                                                                   |
| n classes begin,<br>MOC Campus                 | 27                                                                        | 28  | 29                                                                                                                                                                                |

S DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



## Special People Giving in A Special Way

by Dr. Bobby R. Taylor,

President/CEO, Free Will Baptist Children's Home

One of my first experiences when I came to the Children's Home in 1982 as Director of Child Care was my introduction to Hazel and Clyde Brown. They were serving as Houseparents for 12 girls in State Cottage and Mr. Brown also worked in maintenance during the day. I did not anticipate at the time that our relationship would progress from co-workers to one of deep friendship and admiration.

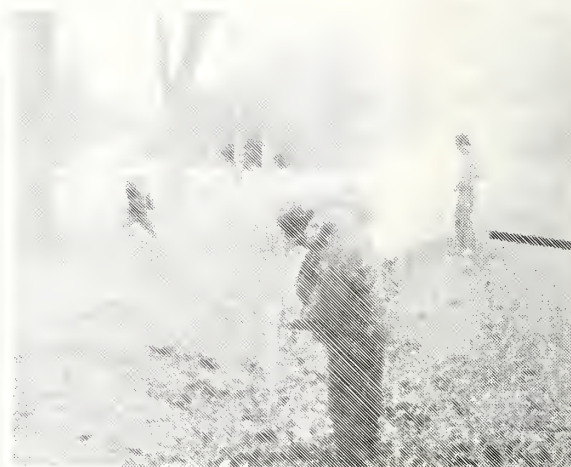
Mr. and Mrs. Brown had been serving the Children's Home for several years and they were committed, caring individuals. Their compassion reached out to all the children on campus.



*Mrs. Brown at work in State Cottage, 1983*



*Dr. Taylor and Mrs. Brown at the State Auxiliary Convention in Rockingham, May 14, 1998*



*Mr. Brown working on campus, 1983*

Mrs. Brown had worked at the home for several years during the 1940s before marrying Mr. Clyde. Mr. and Mrs. Brown completed their careers and raised their family in Rockingham, North Carolina.

I recall asking Mrs. Brown one day why she and Mr. Brown decided to work at the Children's Home after completing their careers and retiring. Without hesitation she replied, "Our hearts have always been with this ministry." Although they were retired, they worked as hard as anyone on campus, many times harder. They could always be counted on to go the extra mile, giving more than anyone could expect.

While on duty May 11, 1984, Mr. Brown went into cardiac arrest and died at the age of fifty-five. This enormous loss was difficult and a sad time for the Children's Home family. The children on campus and especially in State Cottage had lost a dear Houseparent for whom they affectionately cared for and who was a very significant part of their lives. The staff had lost a friend, and a dedicated co-worker.

After Mr. Brown's death, Mrs. Brown spent much time in prayer seeking God's guidance. After several weeks, her answer came and she made the decision to return to the Home to assume her responsibilities in State Cottage. She operated State Cottage by herself for the next 13 months. She cared for 12 girls, ages 8-18, meeting their daily needs; a task that only an experienced and committed child care giver could do so effectively.

Mrs. Brown left the Children's Home in June 1985 to return to her home in Rockingham, but her service to the Home was not finished. In the fall of 1985, she was elected to the Board of Directors to fill the un-expired term of the Rev. Eddie Edwards. She was elected three more terms to the Board, serving a total of 14 years.

During the State Woman's Spring Auxiliary Convention, May 14, 1998 at Mrs. Brown's home church, East Rockingham, I had the privilege and opportunity to visit with Mrs. Hazel Brown and to thank her for her years of service.

Mrs. Brown, the Board of Directors, staff, and children of the Home wish you the very best. Thank you for your dedicated service and support. You are and will always be a part of our extended family. God Bless.



## Community Fundraiser



James Finch of Bailey, North Carolina organized a community fund raiser for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in May. Mr. Finch presented a check to Dr. Bobby R. Taylor in the amount of \$11,915.00. This is the second year that Mr. Finch and his employees have organized and supported this event. The Children's Home would like to thank Mr. Finch and his staff for all of their hard work in this community endeavor.



## Woodmen Donate Freezer

The Woodmen of the World of Rocky Mount, North Carolina donated a chest freezer for use in Rodger's Cottage at the Children's Home in May. Mr. Donald Batchelor, Director of Physical Affairs accepted the gift on behalf of the Home.



## Knightdale Church Visits Children's Home

Members of Faith Baptist Church in Knightdale, North Carolina visited our campus on May 30, 1998. Saturday morning called for a serious softball game followed by hot dogs for lunch. A devotion and sing-a-long time concluded the day's activities.



## Cragmont Woman's Conference — June 8-13, 1998

by Mamie Dail, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday morning, June 8, we boarded the bus for our trip to Cragmont. After a stop for lunch in Burlington, we arrived at our destination about 4:30 where we were welcomed by the staff and those who had come by car.

Our luggage was taken to our assigned

rooms and we settled in for a wonderful week of spiritual adventure and fun.

After dinner at 6:00, we gathered in the air-conditioned comfort of the sanctuary for a time of devotions and getting acquainted.

Donna Holland, director, made the announcements and gave us bulletins with our activities for the week.

Teresa Ball, registrar, shared a time of devotion reminding us of the wonderful gifts that God gives to each of us if we will accept them.

We all enjoyed our get-acquainted time which was also directed by Teresa.

Tuesday through Friday, we started our day at 7:45 with Teresa as she led our devotions sharing the gifts of God.

Breakfast was at 8:00 each morning.

At 9:30 and again at 11:00, we gathered in the sanctuary to sing praises unto the Lord with Nina Grace Register as music director and Jo Ann Parrish at the piano.

Joyce Edmundson, a member of the Antioch Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC, was our speaker for the week. At 9:45 and 11:15 she shared a message about the "Indescribable Gift" including the visit of the angel to Zachariah, Mary's visit from Gabriel, her stay with Elisabeth, Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus, the truth to Joseph, the trip to Jerusalem, the birth in a manger, the visit from the shepherds, escape from Herod and the return of Egypt.

She shared the M&M's of Christmas:

Motivation — giving gifts for the same reason that God gave to us. Love!

Meaning of Christmas — Birth of the Christ child (Christian) Love! John 3:16.

Muscle: Control our actions at Christmas allowing the true motivation to guide us. Let us mediate, glorify and worship.

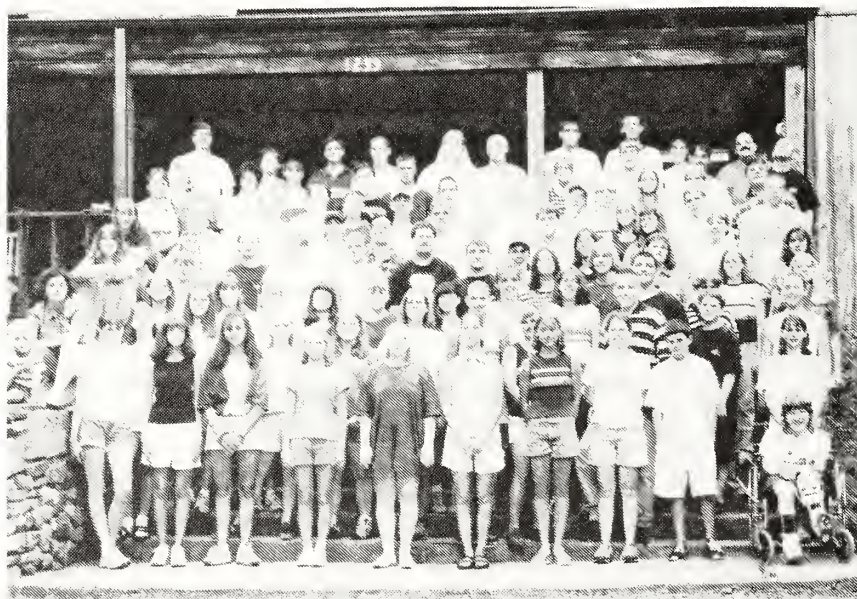
Lunch was served each day at 12:00. About 1:00, we were ready to board the bus for our afternoon of shopping or just enjoying the sights.

Tuesday's trip was to Bon Worth and Black Mountain.

Wednesday afternoon we visited "The Cove," Billy Graham Training Center, where



**Christian Cadet Conference — June 22-27, 1998**  
Directors: The Revs. Gary Bailey and Ronnie Hobgood



**Youth Frontier Conference (YFA) — June 29-July 4, 1998**  
Janie Sowers, Director and the Rev. Frankie Baggett, Co-Director



we toured the Chapel and one of the training centers. From there we ventured over the mountain to the Chimney Rock area and Lake Lure. We had a sunset cruise around Lake Lure where our guide shared the million dollar view, nothing except the handiwork of God for as far as we could see — (the lake, the trees, the mountains, the sunset, and the heavens.)

After sunset, we docked at a lakeside restaurant and enjoyed the dinner of our choice from the menu. The food was delicious.

Back on board again we headed for shore and our trip back to Cragmont.

This was a beautiful and inspiring trip.

Thursday afternoon we were off for a shopping trip to the Asheville Mall, Hamricks, and the Farmer's Market.

Friday afternoon was fun time. The ladies shared their talents for a time of fun and entertainment.

Each night after dinner at 6:00 and sing-a-long at 7:15 we were in for another treat, self Bible study, led by Becky Jo Sumner.

Becky Jo's topics were: Monday night: Prayer for Wisdom, 1 King 3:16–28. Tuesday: Practical use of Wisdom, 1 Kings 3:16–28. Wednesday: A visit by the Queen of Sheba, 2 Chronicles 9:1–12 and 1 Kings 10:1–9. Thursday: Solomon's Fall, 1 Kings 10:24 — 11:9.

Friday night and yet another treat, Harold Jones sharing a message on missions. He also shared the excitement of things happening on the Short-Term Mission Trips.

To close a week of inspiration fellowship, love, fun and excitement, Teresa Ball led in the vespers service.

Saturday morning, after devotions at 6:45 and breakfast at 7:00 we were back on board to get home and share our enthusiasm with those we had left behind.

Alma Dale Cox — we missed you. We pray that you will be ready for the August week.

Thanks to John, Arlinda, Phyllis, and the kitchen crew for taking care of us.

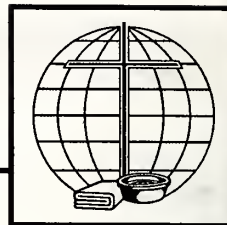
## Information Concerning Articles for Publication

The editorial staff of the Free Will Baptist Press is always ready to help you get your news items and articles published. Following are some suggestions for making the process easier.

1. Type all copy, (please, no hand-written). Use 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> X 11 inch paper.
2. Keep a copy of material (include your phone number so the staff may call if there are questions about your copy.)
3. Indicate the title of the article approximately two inches from the top of the page. Leave an inch and a half at the top of each succeeding page; and for the convenience of editing, please number succeeding pages. Type on only one side of the paper. Please do not type in all caps.
4. Leave a margin of at least one inch on both sides of the paper.
5. Write no more than one article to the page.
6. Clip pages together, using paper clips. Do not staple pages.
7. Read, reread, and correct your own copy.
8. Observe and practice the proper rules of grammar and punctuation.
9. Prepare your articles and reports as far in advance as possible. Articles for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the tenth of the month preceding the date of publication. (Example: Items for the September issue must be in by the tenth of August, etc.)
10. Photos will not be returned unless requested and only when return postage is provided.
11. Feature articles should be limited to no more than six, double-spaced, typed pages.
12. Registration forms will be printed in no more than two issues, and only one unless requested to do so.
13. Full page announcements will be printed in only one issue. If more than one printing is necessary, it will be reduced to one or two columns.
14. Please do not send camera-ready articles. It is better if we set materials in our own style, etc.
15. Please remember that the editor makes the final decision as to whether an article should be published or not. Articles and items that are not dated, may be printed in a later issue.
16. Send articles to: The Editor, The Free Will Baptist Press, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513–0159.

We express our appreciation to the churches and individuals who provide us with the news items and articles for publication. You are helping us to record a history of our denomination. Please keep up the good work. We will do our part to serve you through the pages of *The Free Will Baptist*.





## Bethlehem Youth News

*Submitted by Billie Ard*

Congratulations to the Youth at Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church, Chinquapin, NC, who participated in this year's Eastern District Youth Convention. The Convention took place at Saint's Delight Church, March 14, 1998. Bethlehem's Cherub Choir placed third in group talent singing "The Father Loves Me." Caleb Ard placed first in Cherub Arts & Crafts. Bethlehem's AFC Choir received an honorable mention in group talent singing "His Ways." Danielle Strickland placed third in YFA Arts & Crafts. Way to go Bethlehem Youth! Thank you for letting your lights shine through your talents. We are very proud of you!



*Honorable  
Mention,  
Bethlehem AFC  
Group Talent  
Competition.*



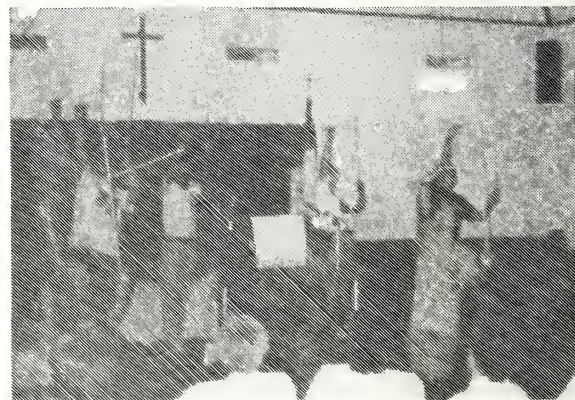
*Caleb Ard,  
First Place Cherub  
Arts & Crafts*



*Third Place ,  
Bethlehem  
Cherub Group  
Talent  
Competition*

## St. Paul Salutes Its Youth

St. Paul Original Free Will Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, NC, is very proud of its young people. The youth group has a "stick-togetherness" that's commendable. The love and support the young people give to each other and to the church deserve attention.



The picture shows the young people presenting a beautiful song entitled "Arise My Love." Using sticks, they acted out the words of the song. There was not a dry eye in the sanctuary when they presented this on Easter morning and again at our spring revival.

Youth Sunday was held on May 3, and once again they sure made everyone proud. Choosing the theme of friendship, they prepared and conducted the entire Sunday morning worship service themselves. The congregation was moved with songs and Scriptures of friendship. No one person preached a sermon, but several teens prepared lessons on examples of friendship from the Bible. We all knew then that we were listening to future Sunday school teachers and perhaps even a future preacher.

On Sunday night, June 14, the youth were surprised with a cookout. The evening of fellowship was solely to honor the youth. When they left choir practice and came into the fellowship hall, they were really surprised. "It means a lot to people of any age to let them know that they are appreciated. But in today's world, it really means a lot to young people when the grown-ups take times to honor them," stated Pastor Paul Grubbs.

He added, "To our young people we'd like to say again, 'We love you and we are so very proud of you!'"



## Church Honors Pastor and Wife

Daniel's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church honored the Rev. and Mrs. Earl H. Glenn with a surprise reception on Sunday evening, May 24, in observance of their fiftieth wedding anniversary on May 28. The celebration took place in the Family Life Center of the Church.



*The Rev. and Mrs. Earl H. Glenn*

Immediately following the evening service, the pastor and Mrs. Glenn were invited by Mr. Robert Pope, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, to go to the Family Life Center which was decorated in a gold motif. The Glenns were escorted to a beautifully decorated area where a three-tiered anniversary cake was centered. Mr. Pope presented the Glenns with a cash gift from the Church. Following a toast by the pastor to the church, he and Mrs. Glenn cut the first piece of cake and all the guests were invited to share in the festivities. The Glenns also received many individual gifts and cards from members and friends of the congregation. Approximately 150 guests attended.

On Tuesday, May 26, the Glenns left for a trip to the Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, Zion National Park and other points of interest in Nevada, Arizona and Utah. The trip was a gift from their children.

The Rev. and Mrs. Glenn, the former Marie Gilbert, were married on May 28, 1948, in East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, TN, by the late Rev. C. F. Bowen. They are the parents of three daughters: Linda Glenn Murray of Manila, Philippines; Holly Marie Glenn, Elizabeth City, NC; and Jan Glenn Benton of Wysox, PA; two sons-in-law: James C. Murray, II, and Colby W. Benton; and three grandsons: James C. Murray, III, Matthew Glenn Benton, and Mark Justin Benton.

Mr. Glenn has pastored Tippet's Chapel Church in Clayton, First Church in Smithfield, First Church in Wilson, St. Mary's Church in New Bern, First Church in Goldsboro, First Church in La Grange, and Daniel's Chapel Church in Wilson.

## People & Events

### Church Loses Faithful Member

*Submitted by Verdie H. Hill*

It is with a sad heart that I write of the sudden death of Easter Elizabeth Smith. She was born June 29, 1923 and died on May 29, 1998, making her stay on earth seventy-four years and eleven months.

She was a long-time member of Smith's New Home Original Free Will Baptist Church, Deep Run, NC. She was active until her death. She was choir director for many years and held offices in Sunday school and the Ladies Auxiliary.



*Easter Elizabeth Smith*

When there was work to be done at the church, or special fund-raising events, she was always present and willing to do more than her share.

She was a devoted wife, a super mom, a loving grandmother, and great grandmother. She believed in taking care of her family's needs, in putting the cook pot on, and working around it. She had many talents and used them wisely. Her hands were always busy quilting, making pretty pillows, planting flowers, and gardening. During the summer months she froze and canned enough vegetables for the winter months. She was a charter member of the Deep Run Extension Homemakers Club, and enjoyed doing crafts. She was an outstanding leader in her community.

It was a joy to visit in her home. She knew how to make you feel welcome, always wanting to share something with you, whether it was some good home cooking, "veggies" from the garden, or a plant from the garden.

Her family included: husband, William (Billy) Smith; daughters, Jeannie Elizabeth Jernigan, Mary Susan Humphrey, and Linda Leigh Yeglinski; sons Clarence Lynwood and Ronald Christopher Smith; sisters, Sally Young, Barbara Smith, Sarah Long, Fleta Sauls, Margie Cox, Arlene Barbee; brothers, Mark and Dennis Smith; twelve grandchildren and two great grandchildren; also, a host of relatives and friends. Preceding her in death was a son, Rex Owen Smith. She will be sorely missed by her family, her church, and her community.

We find comfort in the knowledge that she knew the Lord as her personal Saviour, and served Him to the best of her ability.

Mrs. Smith was laid to rest beneath a beautiful mound of flowers, there to await the Resurrection morn.



### *Hopewell Women's Auxiliary Sponsored Unusual Study Course*

by June Wallace

The planning committee of Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield, NC, Women's Auxiliary was looking for a fresh idea for a study course. An outside speaker? A panel discussion? Their answer turned out to be an "adult Bible School," which was held on June 6 at the church. The topic was Evangelism, and the theme was "I Shall Make You Fishers of Men" (drawn from the "Hooked on Jesus" theme of our youth Bible school).

We met at 8:30 AM for coffee and doughnuts. At 9:00, we had our first session. Based on Acts 16:4-10, it was led by Mrs. Doris Parrish, a Christian woman who practices personal evangelism wherever she goes — from the local McDonald's to area nursing homes.

At 10:00, we had "Music Time," using new as well as familiar choruses and old-time hymns. At 10:30, we came back to a second session based on Acts 16:25-33 and led by Mrs. Christine Pitchi. Mrs. Pitchi has answered a call from God to conduct a prison ministry single-handedly.

Next, we had a "Crafts" class, where we all made beaded key rings shaped like fish. Then, we went in to our final session, titled "A Trip Down the Roman Road" and led by our pastor, Scott Casey. There we learned appropriate Scriptures and steps to follow in effective soul winning.

Following our busy morning, we broke for sandwiches and drinks. The participants enjoyed the day so much that we're thinking about making it an annual event.

### *Cabin Free Will Baptist News*

Submitted by Gwen Baker

On June 8, 1998, a large group of happy campers met at Cabin Free Will Baptist Church, Beulaville, NC, for departure for a week at Camp Vandemere. We had to regretfully say that preacher Ralph had an accident a few weeks prior to camp and was unable to attend camp. He was able to come down and visit us for a few hours on Tuesday. While at summer camp we enjoyed swimming, fishing, canoe riding, and lots of outdoor games. Each one was able to share in silly songs, sacred songs, Bible study and worship service. I truly feel each one was able to feel the love of Jesus at Camp Vandemere. Besides Cabin Church, we were able to fellowship with Folkston, Sneads Ferry, First Church of Kinston, and Elwood Lane of Kannapolis. Campers who attended were as follows: Haley Mercer, Emily Meready, Joshua Baker, Lesley Miller, Colbie Southerland, Nikita Smith, David Short, Ore Futrell, Jordan Meready, Michael Smith, Harold Jones, Michael Vaughn, Chris Taylor, Miranda Lemons, Amanda Huerta, Patrick Kennedy, Adam Kennedy, Christina Bernard, Tineka Rodriguz, Jerry Futrell, Jr., Polly Miller, Norma Miller and Karmen Duff.

A special thanks goes out to the adults who took time off just to be with these children: Ann Miller, Lisa Futrell, Lisa Jones, Carolyn Weis, Sherry Mercer, Renada Miller, Gwen Baker, Mike Smith, Lisa Southerland and Janet Duff. Campers also extend Dr. Thomas Parrish and Brother Tommy Yopp a special thank you for all the spiritual counseling that they were able to give while at Camp Vandemere.

### *Annual Ministers' Conference*

The annual Cragmont Ministers' Conference was held June 15-18, 1998, with a total of ninety-four ministers in attendance. In addition, there was a good number of ministers' wives and children who also attended.

The Conference is sponsored each year by the North Carolina Ministerial Association. This was the fifty-second annual session to be held at Cragmont Assembly. The president of the Association is the Rev. Harold Swinson, pastor of Free Union Church, Pinetown, NC. (A total of seventy-three ministers were present when the picture was taken.)





# Space Mission Bible Camp Comes to Daniels Chapel

by Johnny R. Sullivan, Youth/Music Director

Daniels Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC, recently held its annual Vacation Bible School, June 8-12. It was truly a wonderful week!

Attendance each night was super, with high attendance on one night of 176!

This year's theme was "Space Mission Bible Camp." The students were divided into different ride crews called the "Rockets," "Power Rangers," "Space Shuttles," and "Astronauts." Each group visited attractions nightly with the daily Bible point being the emphasis. The Bible points each day focused on God helping us to be kind, helpful, believers in Jesus, and to be faithful.

The week ended on a high note on Friday night, June 12, with a pizza party. On Sunday morning, June 14, Vacation Bible School Commencement took place. Hymns were sung, pledges made and wonderful music shared with a full band during the morning worship service. Our youth left the congregation with the message, "God Can Do, Oh He Can Do, God Can Do Anything!" Following the service, a covered-dish lunch was shared by all in the Family Life Center.

The Lord truly blessed our church with a wonderful week of Bible School, but most important, left a lasting impression with our youth and Church that Jesus is Lord and He is Alive!



Pledge Time

Craft Time



Game Time

## People & Events

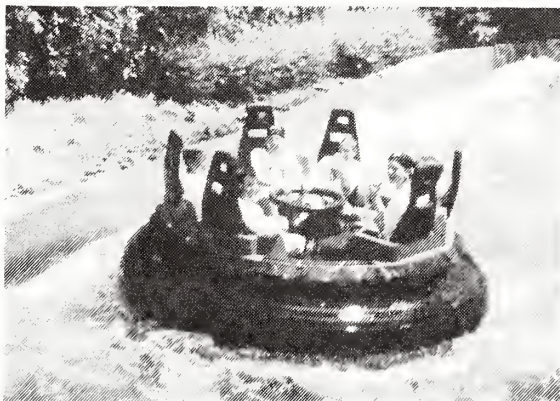
### Summer Retreat for Youth Group

by Johnny Sullivan, Youth/Music Director

The "Rocks" Youth Group (Grades 6-8) from Daniels Chapel Church in Wilson, North Carolina, recently went on their Summer Retreat June 4-5. The group, whose name is based upon Matthew 16:18, went to Williamsburg, Virginia, and visited Bush Gardens and Water Country, USA. While on their retreat, they participated in Bible Studies on "What Would Jesus Do?" "What Happens When We Say Hurtful Words to Others?" and "Using Our Hands for God." These young people displayed a Christ-like attitude. They were wonderful witnesses for the Lord and our Church is very proud of them!



The "Rocks" Youth Group



Fun time at Water Country

### Organist Needed...

for Reedy Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Winterville, NC. If interested call 252-321-8192 or 756-8818 or 353-5957.



## People & Events

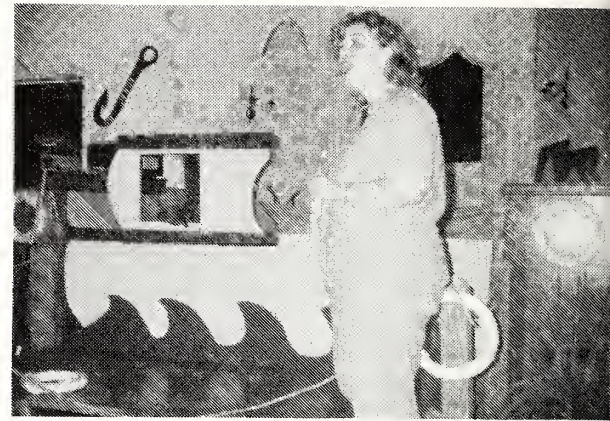
### *Powhatan Vacation Bible School Gets Kids "Hooked on Jesus"*

*Submitted by Rita Jones*

June was a month of celebration at Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC. Inez West celebrated her eighty-second birthday on June 2. She also placed flowers in the church on June 7 in memory of Julian and Gertrude Jones and joined other descendants in a family reunion dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Julian's parents, Matthew and Ella Jones, gave the land for Powhatan Church many years ago. At the evening service that day, there was a rededication baptism for Joyce Adcox.

The Relay for Life was held June 12-13, celebrating cancer survivors and honoring those who had lost cancer fights. Sue Greene did a great job leading Powhatan's team at the fundraiser. Several members spent the night, with a team member walking around the lake at all times. Luminaries lit the circumference of the lake, each representing a cancer victim. The money raised goes to the American Cancer Society and to help victims and their families.

Vacation Bible School was held June 22-27 with record numbers in attendance. The sanctuary looked like a dock for the week and each class room was decorated with "fishing" themes. Ninety-one received certificates for perfect attendance for the week. Some of the older children did the devotion each night and it was a blessing to see. This year, we tried serving meals for the children and participants and everyone seemed to enjoy the fellowship and was glad to be unburdened from having to rush and prepare something at home. Thank you to all who helped in the meal preparation, serving, and clean-up. A special thank you to Teresa Barbour and Wanda Benson (directors) for a job well done.



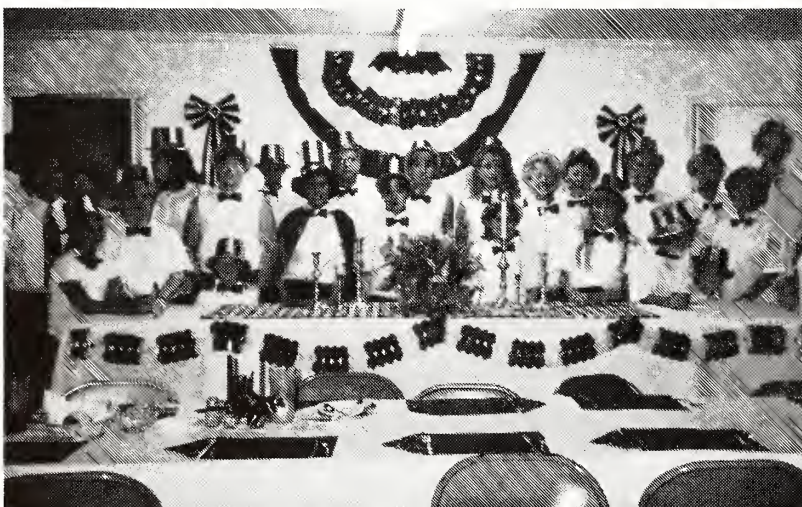
*Deana Smith asks, "Kids, do you want Sardinia to come out and tell us what she's up to today?" The fish puppet was a wonderful visitor each night.*



*Alice Cole working on the VBS attendance records with daughter Beverly Price. Teresa Barbour looks on, hoping for another record count.*

### *Patriotic Program Presented*

The youth of Holly Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, NC, presented a first time ever Patriotic Dinner Theatre "Stars and Stripes Forever" on June 26 and 27. The youth did an outstanding job and it was a great success. The youth and adults worked very hard for many months to make these evenings of enjoyment to celebrate this great nation and our Lord and Saviour. Barbecue chicken, potato salad, green beans, hot homemade rolls, and desserts were served for the meal. We would like to commend the youth for their commitment and dedication to the Lord.



*"Stars and Strips Forever" participants.*



## Church Van Receives Lettering



Paul Heath (seated), press operator at the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., Ayden, NC, and free lance graphic artist, designed and painted the letters and logo on the Free Union Free Will Baptist Church van. "I've enjoyed doing the design for the van," said Mr. Heath. "The parrot, 'Web,' is the word bird who had a word for everything. His word for the Sea Level folks traveling in the Free Will Baptist Church van is — 'top travelin' time.'" Mr. Heath and his wife Marsha are working together on a coloring book for the Mount Olive College Press. The book will feature Web, the word bird. (Photo by Pepper Worthington.)

## Annual Labor Day Sale and Bazaar

Saturday, September 5 and  
Monday, September 7  
Begins at 8:00 AM and  
ends when the last hotdog is sold  
Intersection of Hwy 39 and Hwy 231 (Emit)  
(Five miles south of  
Five-County Mudcat Stadium)

We will have our famous HOTDOGS for sale. \$1.50 buys a hotdog and a drink. There will also be lots of homemade pies, cakes, and goodies. An assortment of homemade crafts and canned goods will also be available. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship.

Sponsored by:  
Friendship Free Will Baptist Church  
Woman's Auxiliary

## People & Events

### Attention State and District Officer of the Woman's Auxiliary

There will be a meeting of all district and state officers of the North Carolina State Woman's Auxiliary on Wednesday, September 16, 1998, at 6:00 PM at Mount Olive College. A fellowship meal will be served in the President's Room in the Murphy Regional Center.

### Manager Needed

Camp Vandemere is looking for a manager. Candidates should possess managerial as well as maintenance skills. Applicant should be able to relate well with people. Ideal for a retired or semi-retired person. Comfortable lodging available. The is a year-round position. Please send resume to Owen Arthur, 660 Half Moon Road, New Bern, NC 28560 or phone 252-633-1185.

### The 2nd Annual Free Will Baptist Convention Golf Fellowship

Tuesday, September 15, 1998 — 12:00 noon  
Southern Wayne Country Club, Mount Olive, NC

- Four-man Superball format; any handicap combination allowed
- Trophies & gift certificates for 1st & 2nd place teams
- Closest to the pin and long-drive competition
- Drawing for FREE set of competition golf clubs (3-PW)
- Entry fee includes one mulligan per player, use any where on the course, including putts
- Lots of other prizes and surprises
- Entry fee — \$35.00 per player; \$140.00 per team
- Enter as an individual and be placed in available slots.

#### ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Convention of Original Free Will Baptists; send to Headquarters, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.



## Festival '98 with Franklin Graham

Enthusiasm and interest continues to mount as the services with Franklin Graham draws ever closer. The dates are September 27-29, 1998, at Dowdy Ficklen Stadium, ECU, Greenville, NC. Services will begin each evening at 7:00 PM.

As of July 13, 180 churches have become participating churches.

Following is the schedule of events which will be taking place from August 10 — September 10:

### Monday, August 10, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Concert/Choir Rehearsal  
Directed by: Ted Cornell of BGEA  
First Christian Church  
401 E. 2nd Street, Washington, NC

### Tuesday, August 11, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Concert/Choir Rehearsal  
Directed by: Ted Cornell of BGEA  
Tabernacle Baptist Church  
608 Broad Street, New Bern, NC

### Thursday, August 13, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Concert/Choir Rehearsal  
Directed by: Ted Cornell of BGEA  
St. Paul's UMC  
204 E. Chestnut St., Goldsboro, NC

### Saturday, August 15, 11:00 – 12:30 PM

Concert/Choir Rehearsal  
Directed by: Ted Cornell of BGEA  
Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church  
1095 Allen Road, Greenville, NC

### Sunday, August 16

Operation Andrew Sunday  
The Pastor emphasizes the principle of being an active Andrew.  
Material: Operation Andrew Card  
All Churches

### Tuesday, August 18, 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Rally  
Guest Speaker: Anne Graham Lotz  
Special Music: Kendra Cook-Penn and Tom Bledsoe  
Williams Arena: Minges Coliseum  
ECU: Greenville, NC

### Thursday, August 20, 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Usher Training  
First Presbyterian Church  
1101 Ashe Street, Goldsboro, NC

### Saturday, August 22, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Love-In-Action Health Fair  
C.M. Eppes Middle School  
Elm Street, Greenville, NC

### Saturday, August 22

CLWC - Youth  
Covenant UMC  
4000 Corey Road, Winterville, NC

### Sunday, August 23, 3:00–4:30 PM

Usher Training  
First UMC  
304 W. 2nd Street, Washington, NC

### August 24 – September 4

Make Up Christian Life and Witness  
Classes, TBA

### Thursday, August 27, 7:30–9:00 PM

Men's Rally  
Guest Speaker: Wellington Boone  
Guest Musician: David Koblish  
Faith and Victory  
3950 Victory Lane, Winterville, NC

### Saturday, August 29, 10:00–11:30 AM

Usher Training  
William Arena: Minges Coliseum  
ECU: Greenville, NC

### Sunday, August 30

Festival Support Sunday  
The Congregational Leader presents the financial need of the Festival and the proposed program for church involvement.  
Materials: Finance Brochure, Finance Envelope  
All Churches

### Sunday, August 30, 5:00–9:00 PM

CLWC-University  
East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

### Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6:00 PM

Pre-Festival Youth Rally/Concert  
Music provided by Audio Adrenaline  
TBA

### Thursday, September, 10, 7:30–9:00 PM

CLWC Class Five (small group training)  
TBA

### For addition information contact: Festival Office

300 14th Street • Post Office Box 1614 • Greenville, NC 27835

Office Phone: 252-413-0925 Fax: 252-413-0926

## CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. Jimmy Webster is available for full-time or bi-vocational pastorate. He may be contacted by phone 252-321-8583.

## Datum

### Giving up on giving

Per capita church contributions among both mainline Protestants and evangelicals have continued to fall for over 27 years. Members of mainline denominations now give on average 2.9% of their income (down from 3.3%) while evangelicals contribute 4% (down from 6%). The typical church member (in either category) gives less than \$20 annually to his church for global outreach yet spends an average \$164 a year for soft drinks, \$667 for eating out, and more than \$1,000 on entertainment.

—Pulpit Helps,  
Apr1998 (page 24)



# **KINGS DOMINION®**

## **3rd Annual**

### **Original Free Will Baptist**

### **Family Day**

**Saturday, August 29, 1998**

**Celebration of Worship**  
**International Street Band Stand**  
**10:00 AM to 1:30 PM**

*Featuring:*  
**Covenant**  
**The Four In Christ Quartet**  
**The Second Edition**

#### **SPECIAL DISCOUNT TICKETS**

**Only! \$18.00 ages 7+**

You save \$13.99! Regular Admission \$31.99

**Only! \$16.50 ages 3-6**

You Save \$6.49! Regular Admission \$22.99

Children 2 and under admitted free.

Your admission allows you to enjoy all of Paramount's Kings Dominion's rides, shows and attractions except selected pay-per-experience attractions.

**All tickets must be purchased in advance**  
**Deadline for ordering Tickets August 18, 1998**



**For Ticket Information Contact:**  
**Your Pastor or Youth Leader or call the**  
**Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters**  
**252-746-4963**  
**811 N. Lee Street • P.O. Box 39**  
**Ayden, NC 28513**

## **Book Review**

Pepper Worthington. *Meditations*. Mount Olive College Press, 1996. \$25.00

W. J. Middleton

*Meditations* is a 205 page, seven by ten-inch glossy paperback filled with 89 devotional meditations. Each meditation is accompanied by either a theme-related photograph taken by the author or a wonderful pen and ink drawing by Michael G. Warning, the author's husband. A note to those of you, who like me, dislike the eyestrain and headache involved in reading small print: the size and style of the type in this book are easy on the eyes and make it a joy to read.

Each meditation begins with a theme or topic. Of course, I cannot list all of the 89 themes in this brief space, but some of my favorites are: Thinking, Focusing, Never Enough (I love the picture of the goat that goes with this one), Love, Peace, Hope, Forgiveness...and the list goes on. Following each theme is a Bible verse appropriate to the theme. With the theme and Bible verse setting the tone, Dr. Worthington then launches into the discussion of each topic, raising questions and suggesting answers. The heart of this book is in the discussion section of each meditation. Following this discussion is the final part of the meditation. Boxed and in bold print, the reader is confronted with one or more thematic questions or statements relevant to the meditation and proceeding discussion.

As I noted earlier, the heart of this work is in Dr. Worthington's discussions. In addition to her own Christian and moral perspectives on these topics, she gleans ideas and concepts from some of the great literary and historical minds of the ages to show how their thoughts can sometimes fit into a Christian meditation of a topic. Through these discussions the reader is invited to think along with Dr. Worthington and some of the greatest minds the world has ever seen. Dr. Worthington also gives the reader the benefit of some of her own stories and experiences. Some of the stories are of a more personal nature and reflective. Other stories are more lighthearted and joyful. But all of the stories are to the point and when blended with some of the great ideas of the giants in history and literature, in a style only Dr. Worthington can achieve, it becomes a wonderful Christian reading experience.

Most of the meditations seem to ask more questions than they give answers. Buy isn't that what a meditation is all about? Dr. Worthington's book helps us to plant the seeds of these topics in our minds. She helps us do this properly, in a Christian-oriented way. It is then up to us, the readers, to grow through these questions and arrive at some balance between ourselves, our world, and our Maker.

(W. J. Middleton is an alumnus of Mount Olive College.)







# THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens*



## "Know Thyself."

(Delphic Oracle, Ancient Greece, approximately 500 BC)

### *Exploring the Inner Chamber of Our Lives*

*W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College*

Do we know what makes us the persons we are? Our lives are much like an iceberg: only a small part of what we are is visible; the major part of our real being is hidden beneath the surface. Together, let us explore these inner chambers out of which the controlling forces of our lives emerge.

#### **Chambers of Our Lives**

The upper chamber is public and is open to friend, foe, and stranger. This chamber includes our physical features, our race, our age-range, our countenance and cultural qualities.

Next, there is an inner chamber from which we can choose what we want others to know about us, including our political inclinations, our financial affairs and our religious perspective.

The third chamber is our private world, and the only persons we want to enter are those we invite. This chamber is the sanctuary of our values, our private lifestyle, certain health problems, our sense of self-importance and our need to be appreciated, respected and loved. It is also here that our prejudices are nourished and feelings of distrust, anger and even concealed hostility reside. It is here that many of the crucial battles of our lives are fought — often alone.

The state of our mental health is deeply rooted in the secret chamber. Our perception of other people is in large measure through the lens of our inner life, and it is easy to misjudge others because we do not know ourselves. Many of the people we see from a negative point of view may be secretly going through the same battle we are.

The deepest chamber of our lives is subconscious. The chamber often includes painful experiences which we have suppressed from our memory. Out of this matrix may emerge forces over which we alone

have neither the will nor strength to control. The power of the Christian faith is that through it we can overcome these hidden forces which have the potential to destroy us.

#### **Our Inner Struggle**

In each of us there is an inner struggle between what we are and what we know we should be. The Apostle Paul described the struggle in his life in an open and honest manner when he wrote: "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ...I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. ...What a wretched man I am!" (Romans 7:15-24, NIV).

To know ourselves requires that we, like Paul, acknowledge the struggle that goes on within us. There is something bad in the best of us and something good in the worst of us. To recognize and to accept this truth is an essential step in building effective relationships with others and in experiencing inner peace in our own lives.

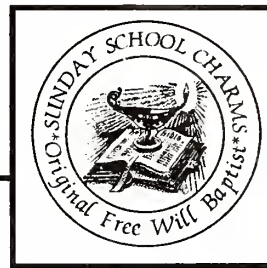
There are three views of each of us: the view we have of ourselves, the view other people have of us, and the way God sees us. Our happiness and well being depend in large measure upon how well we can make these three views one and the same. One of the most meaningful prayers of the church addresses this need:

"Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and magnify Thy holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord."

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1998 (Vol. 3, No. 10) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



## Shady Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church Sunday School Appreciation Day

**Compiled by Mary Dudley, Executive Director of the Sunday School Board Ministry**

It was a fabulous Sunday morning, June 7, 1998. Many people had gathered for an unusual schedule of events. To begin with, there was a switch in times for the Sunday school and Worship service. The day began at 10:00 AM with the pastor, the Rev. Jesse A. Fulcher, delivering his message from I Chronicles 28:1-10; 20. He alluded to the Sunday school lesson topic for the day which was, "What's the Point?" The point was service to God and being aware of the appropriateness of our words and actions in relationship with others and with our God. What a powerful point!

After the Morning worship service, the Sunday school hour convened at 11:00 AM with people coming in every door. After awhile, the sanctuary was almost completely filled with folks of all ages who had come to celebrate the power of God and to honor six of their most faithful servants through the years. The Sunday school superintendent, Mr. Lee Morton Jernigan, led the Appreciation Service. Mrs. Mary Dudley represented the Sunday School Board with a message on *The Importance of Sunday School* in our communities and the world. After her talk, Mrs. Carolyn Jernigan presented plaques to six Sunday school workers who were recognized with 265 combined years of service to their church and Sunday school. The following people were honored.

- Lizzie Bell Dawson 55 years
- Rita Mae Jernigan 51 years
- Mabel Jackson 51 years
- Erman Godwin 46 years
- Jean Wise 43 years
- Bermie Edwards 19 years

Hearty rounds of applause were offered to each one. Those who had brought visitors were honored with gifts from the Sunday school.

After two great services, lunch was served in "pignic" style. Several "tireless" men had been up all night to cook the pig. The aroma could easily be smelled as the morning sun arose. All those present, from the older to the youngest, enjoyed the "pignic" and all the trimmings. After the lunch had time to settle, the

Vacation Bible School kickoff was enjoyed by the young in age and the young at heart. Chatter, the chipmunk, was there, as he was during the Worship Hour, to invite folks to the "Space Mission Camp" the following week. It was truly a great day to celebrate the Lord's presence in the Shady Grove community.

The Sunday School Board encourages your church to invite Mrs. Dudley to come and share the mission of the Sunday School Board Ministry. There are several different formats that could be used to talk about Sunday school in your church and how you can share within your community. If your Sunday school has news which would be of interest to the denomination, please share it with her. Remember the Sunday School Board is your ministry of service through teaching and learning. Pray for the continued growth in Free Will Baptist Sunday Schools and with this will come your continued financial support. For further information, please contact:

Mrs. Mary Dudley  
1770 Will Cunningham Road  
Deep Run, NC 28525  
Phone: (252) 568-3311

or

The Sunday School Board  
OFWB Headquarters  
Post Office Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513  
Phone: (252) 746-4963





### Gleanings from the 1945 Issues of *The Free Will Baptist*

The Ministers' Conference for the ministers of the North Carolina Central Conference was held last Friday (March 30) in the Greenville Church. The meeting was well attended by both the ministers and the laity of the churches.

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The North Carolina State Sunday School Convention will meet on Friday, April 27, 1945, at St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, New Bern. "Teaching the Word" is the theme of this annual session.

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The Rev. N. B. Barrow, of Snow Hill, North Carolina, has been elected as one of the teachers for the Christian Workers' Institute which will be held in Flat River, Missouri, May 21 through June 1, 1945.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The new folding machine, which was recently installed by the business manager of the Press, is working fine. It is a decided help to the business of the Press in folding the Baptist paper, and the other literature which is being published by this institution. Brother C. K. Dunn, the Business Manager, has been talking for a long time about the great need for such a machine, and only recently has he been able to get the machine for this purpose (taken from the Editorial by Editor R. B. Spenser, August 22, 1945.)

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Dr. Pepper Worthington

## DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Warren W. Wiersbe. *Preaching & Teaching With Imagination*. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books), 400 pages.

### Introduction: Part II

In the second half of his imaginative book, Dr. Wiersbe gives us a vivid approach to *Imagination and Biblical Preaching* (201–400). To use the imagination in preaching, Dr. Wiersbe emphasizes that preaching is like going on a pilgrimage where we mine treasures (Proverbs 2:1–8), discover rich spoils (Psalm 119:162), prepare a spiritual meal (1 Peter 2:2). The preacher's message "grows like a baby in the womb" (202), develops in "an organic process that grows out of the life of the minister in contact with the life of the Word" (202). What is a sermon? Dr. Wiersbe notes: "The sermon is a door that opens onto a path that leads the pilgrim into new steps of growth and service to the glory of God" (218). We must remember that an outlined message with reason and analysis is not enough. Imagination is needed. "Exegesis and analysis are launching pads, not parking lots; and it's imagination that fuels the rocket" (221). As T. S. Eliot reminded us in *On Poetry and Poets*, "a study of anatomy will not teach you how to make a hen lay eggs" (222).

### Imagination and Preaching

Isn't a good outline and a reasoned analysis of the text enough for a sermon? Shouldn't we just deal with biblical facts, doctrine, and clarity? Why add the imagination?

Dr. Wiersbe insists that language not only needs to be reasoned, logical, and factual, it also needs the wings of the poet, prophet, and seer. Philippi Wheelwright reminds us we can't capture "water in a net, or breeze in a bag" (223). Imagination gives meaning to the data. Imagination allows not an *escape* from reality but an *encounter* with reality, such an encounter that might give "a deeper understanding of God and His Will" (225). Imagination leads us into the world of the unseen, the world of faith, the world of meaning.

### Imagination Searches For Relationships

"Imagination searches for relationships, because relationships produce patterns, and patterns reveal new truths for us to share" (229). When the imagination uses biographical stories from the Bible, the historical facts remind us of ourselves, of human patterns, of our need for God. For example, the image of Saul's spear illustrated that Saul was in charge. Yet, Saul couldn't kill David with this spear and ironically, the spear killed Saul (241). Such an image reminds us that it's not the spear or weapon in our hand, but "the integrity" of our heart "that God honors and uses" (241).

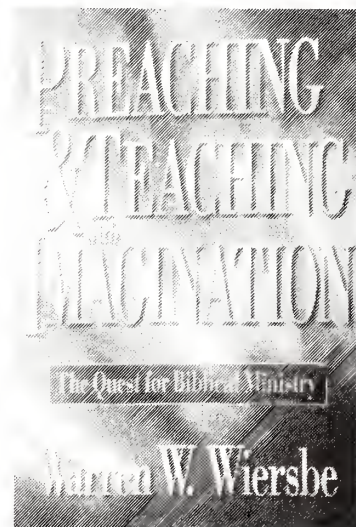
When studying the biographies of Saul, Samson, and Judas, all three of them ended up in the *dark*. Is there a pattern in their lives? Is there a pattern of growth and decline, of moving from some degree of light to blinding darkness? What might such a pattern teach us about ourselves?

### Imagination and Comfort

According to Dr. Wiersbe, "the best way to communicate God's comforting Word to broken hearts is not with an argument but with a picture" (251). Imagination can help with the fear and grief of death. Jesus, for example, compared His own death to an *exodus* (Luke 9:31). Certain images can comfort: death as a *sleep*; burial as *sowing*; resurrection as the *harvest*. Death may be pictured as taking down a tent, as cutting a weaving from a loom.

### Conclusion

Dr. Wiersbe reminds us to see the world anew, allowing the imagination to empower teaching and preaching. As Emily Dickinson said: "The Possible's slow fuse is lit by the Imagination" (288).



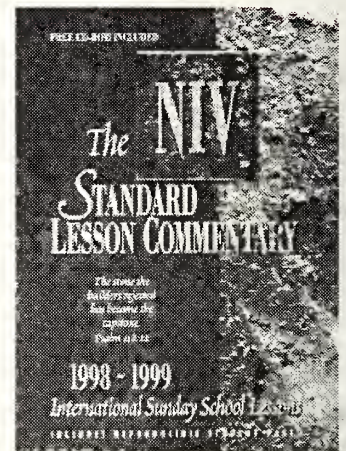
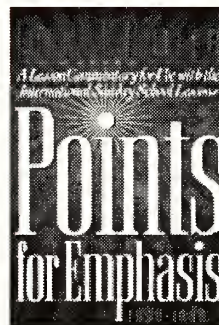
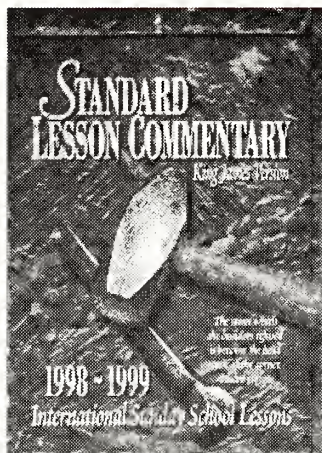
***Preaching & Teaching With Imagination* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**



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# The Free Will Baptist

September 1998



You are cordially invited  
to attend a  
Time of Worship and Celebration  
of the  
125th Anniversary  
of  
The Free Will Baptist Press  
Tuesday, September the fifteenth  
Nineteen hundred and ninety-eight  
at seven-thirty in the evening  
Convention of Original Free Will Baptist  
College Hall  
Mount Olive College  
Mount Olive, North Carolina

Reception sponsored by the Convention  
will follow in the Murphy Center



## A Ministry's Impact

How do we determine the impact of any one of our Ministries? Select one of them in an effort to answer this question and we'll find that its impact goes far beyond what the physical eye observes. The history of our ministries began at different times, based upon the needs that existed and also because someone, or some persons, felt the necessity to fill a certain void that existed in our society. The founding of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, for example, was born out of the need to provide care primarily for orphaned children. Cragmont came into existence because a number of our ministers and others felt the need for a place where our people, particularly our youth, could spend a few days in a beautiful location and receive Christian instruction and inspiration and at the same time have a good time. Missions (Home and Foreign), Mount Olive College, and all the other ministries exist for a purpose — a purpose that we as a denomination chose to undertake, believing that in working together in support of these ministries we could accomplish what a single church could not accomplish.

We realize, of course, that only God knows the full impact of each of these undertakings. Only Heaven will reveal the full picture. What we do know is that the impact reaches beyond what we see. It is the touching of lives for good that continues on and on. Buildings and structures will sooner or later decay and will be replaced and the cycle will continue. These outward things are necessary to the function and success of any ministry; however, it is the touching of lives that compels us to give, to go, to work, and to pray.

On September 15, a very special service has been planned in observance of the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of *The Free Will Baptist*. We began this celebration at the beginning of the year. Each issue of *The Free Will Baptist* has carried some news or information pertaining to this anniversary. It is of great significance that this ministry has existed for well over a century. As with all the other ministries and programs, an impact has been made. It began at a time when there was little to "pull" our people together. As our history reveals, the early beginning was marked with some failures; but there was perseverance and determination to press on with the conviction that there was a definite need for the distribution of the news of our denomination, and later for the publication of books, literature, and the supplying of religious materials for our own churches, and for others as well.

What has been the impact of The Free Will Baptist Press in all of its endeavors? We do not have the full answer; however, we are sure that lives have been touched because of the printed word, or because a good Christian book was purchased and read. Christians have been spiritually strengthened and enlightened because of a Sunday school lesson, or because they read "Notes and Quotes," or "The Lighted Pathway," or "The Children's Story," or some article or sermon that contained a special message for them. Many have become informed because they read about the work of our ministries and realized that the Kingdom of God was being advanced in our society for the good of humanity.

The impact of The Free Will Baptist Press has also been realized in its position and standing on important issues. It has served as a protector of our faith and doctrines. This has been especially true regarding the pages of *The Free Will Baptist*. The bound volumes dating back to 1936 attest to this. During times of crisis, it has remained firm and positive in its position and purpose. Browsing through these bound volumes presents a history of a denomination, the story of churches and people as they struggle through difficult times and as they triumph in their achievements. In them we see pictures of faithful men and women who made their contributions to their church and to their Lord, who years ago departed this life. The impact they made lives on today.

Indeed, lives have been touched and changed because of the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Press. The writers of Sunday school lessons, League programs, Woman's Auxiliary programs, articles for publication in *The Free Will Baptist*, and the many other materials, have had their influence in fashioning a denomination, a people who love their Lord and their church.

This "Time of Worship and Celebration" of the 125th Anniversary of the Free Will Baptist Press is a reminder of a ministry that began when in the 1873 meeting of the General Conference, meeting at Union Grove Church, Wayne County, NC, someone arose and moved that "...the resolution concerning the publication of an official church organ be adopted."

As we weigh the impact of this ministry, or any ministry, let's remember — We weaken a ministry when we fail to support it, and when it is weakened it loses some of its effectiveness in ministering. When we are loyal in our support, greater accomplishments will follow, and God will be glorified.

## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

C. H. Overman, Editor  
Robert Hadden, Graphic Arts Manager  
R. Clifford Gray Jr., Executive Director

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James B. Hardee, Chairman; Dr. Austin Carter, Vice Chairman, Gary Burbage, Dr. K. David Hines, Frank Flowers, Ermon Godwin, Sonny McLawhorn, Nina Grace Register, Russell Corbett

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Mary Ann Davenport, Editorial Assistant  
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Jerry Goff, Graphic Artist  
Ronnie Jones, Press Operator  
Paul Heath, Press Operator  
Randy Doughtie, Press and Bindery  
Nina Fussell, Bindery and Shipping

The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

All subscriptions are payable in advance: one year, \$10.07; two years, \$18.55; four years, \$36.04 (including sales tax for North Carolina residents); residents of other states, \$9.50, \$17.50, and \$34, respectively (plus sales tax where it applies). **Every-Family Plan:** A 25 percent discount given when local churches send *The Free Will Baptist* to the home of every member; names and addresses to be provided by churches. Churches are billed quarterly. **Bundle Plan:** Lots of 25 or more copies of *The Free Will Baptist* are sent to one individual who in turn distributes these. A 50 percent discount is offered under this plan.

**Bookstore Hours:** Ayden, 9 AM-5 PM, Monday-Saturday; Wilson, 10 AM-6 PM, Monday-Saturday; New Bern and Kinston, 9:30 AM-5 PM, Monday-Saturday.

*The Free Will Baptist* is edited and published monthly by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., 811 North Lee Street, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159. Second-class postage paid at Ayden, North Carolina (USPS 2094-4000).

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## NEXT MONTH

*October is  
Minister's  
Program  
Month*

*September is  
Home Missions and  
Evangelism Month*



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1998

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# Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

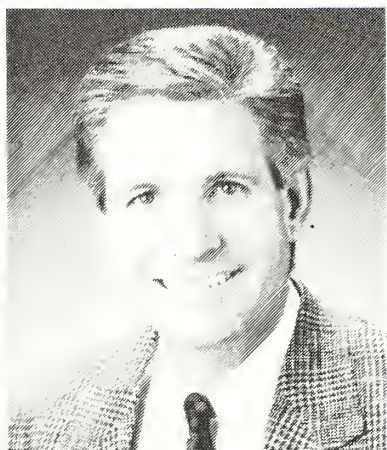
Meeting  
September 15-17  
College Hall, Mount Olive College

## Featured Speakers



**Marlene LeFever**  
Director of Church Relations  
David C. Cook Church Ministries  
Will speak  
Tuesday, September 15, 7:30 PM  
"Time of Worship and Celebration"  
125th Anniversary  
of the Free Will Baptist Press

Marlene will also speak during the  
Sunday School Board Annual Fall Leadership Banquet  
Wednesday, September 16, 5:45 PM

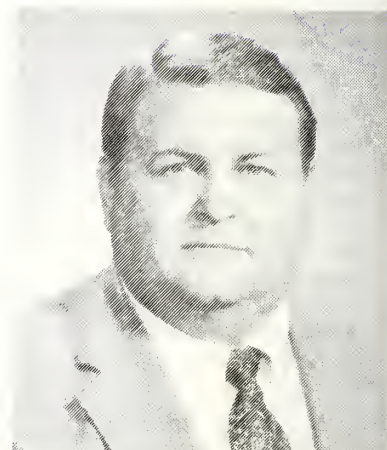


**Sherman Dale Barnette**  
Crusade Director  
Billy Graham  
Evangelistic Association

Worship Service  
Wednesday, 10:50 AM

**The Rev. Ray Wells,**  
Convention President

Worship Service  
Thursday, 10:10 AM



Mr. Barnette was born in Valdaman, Mississippi. He attended Clarke Memorial College in Newton, Mississippi and Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Mississippi. Before joining the BGEA, he was Film Coordinator for World Wide Pictures and pastored several churches, the last being Friendship Baptist Church in Grenada, Mississippi. He and his wife, Linda, a county recorder, reside in Grenada, and have two children, Mandy and Chad.

Mr. Wells has served as president of the Convention since September of 1994. He is the pastor of Marsh Swamp Church, Rock Ridge, NC. During his ministry, he has been actively involved in the work of the Convention. He and his wife, Julie, reside in the Marsh Swamp Church parsonage. They have two children, Alice and Daniel.





## History of the Free Will Baptist Press

*Covering the past forty years*

(Continued from the August issue)

In July of 1954, the Rev. J. O. Fort succeeded the Rev. Floyd B. Cherry as Editor of the Free Will Baptist Press. Mr. Fort came to Ayden from southern Georgia where he had successfully served as a pastor and school administrator. In late 1957, the Rev. C. H. Overman accepted the position of Assistant Editor. At that time Mr. Fort became Manager and Editor, replacing Mr. L. A. Dunn as Manager. (Mr. Dunn continued to serve as Treasurer for a number of years.) In 1960, because of the desire to reenter the field of education, and because of the pressures of editorship, Mr. Fort resigned and returned to Georgia. Mr. Overman became the Editor.

Those who have served as manager, beginning in 1960 with the resignation of Mr. Fort, are as follows:

The Rev. N. Bruce Barrow, 1960-'66;

The Rev. Walter Reynolds, 1966-'81;

The Rev. David Charles Hansley, 1981-'82 (title was changed from Manager to Executive Director);

The Rev. Jack Mayo, named Interim Executive Director, 1983;

Mr. R. Clifford Gray, assumed the position of Executive Director in 1983 and continues to serve in this capacity.

In 1962, Mr. Overman resigned as Editor and returned to the pastorate. The Rev. Garland Teasley was named Acting Editor, serving until August 1, 1962. The Rev. Ralph Lightsey was secured as Editor and served through August of 1963, at which time Mr. Overman returned as Editor, serving through December 31, 1968. The following have served in the capacity of Editor beginning in 1969:

Mr. Tommy Manning, 1969-'80 (was first named Acting Editor after serving for several years as Illustrator for the Press.) In the Fall of 1978, Mr. Manning took a leave of absence to further his education. The Rev. C. F. Bowen served as

Acting Editor during this time;

Mrs. Janie Jones Sowers, 1980-'94 (was named Acting Editor, becoming Editor in August of 1980);

Miss Tracy McCoy, 1994-'96;

The Rev. C. H. Overman, February, 1997, until the present.

Managers and Editors are not the only ones who have played an important part in the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Press. The number of persons who have been employed are too numerous to mention, even if all of them could be named. These have included editorial personnel, bookstore managers and employees, press operators and specialists in other areas of printing, graphic artists, secretaries, shipping and handling personnel, bookkeepers, and treasurers.

There's also the Board of Directors. Over the years, these persons have devoted much of their time to the work of this ministry. Much credit goes to them in the guidance and directions they have given to the Press, both in the lean years and during the years of growth.

As with other enduring and successful endeavors, many changes have taken place in the history of the Press. Many changes have been necessitated because of changing technology in the printing and publishing process — from the old hand fed job presses and the flat-bed presses to the more modern offset presses; from the Linotype typesetters, to the computers.

Changes have also taken place regarding the publications. In the beginning *The Free Will Baptist* was a weekly publication; however, in 1985, it became a monthly publication. As a weekly, each issue was limited to sixteen pages. As a monthly, the number of pages may run as many as forty pages. The publication of Sunday school literature



### History of the Free Will Baptist Press

began about 1906 and throughout the years the number of publications increased until materials were provided for all age groups, including teachers' guides. In 1985, the Press ceased printing and publishing Sunday school materials from Toddlers through Elementary, and began to provide materials through the David C. Cook publishing Co. The materials from Junior through the Adults are written for Free Will Baptists. The publishing of the Free Will Baptist League literature began in 1933 and provided quarterlies for all age groups, including manuals for various age groups. About 1962, interest in the League began to decline until only a few churches still sponsored the League. For several years the Press continued the publication of materials, finally discontinuing in 1997. For a number of years the Press also published its own Daily Vacation Bible School materials, but in recent years has turned to other publishers to fill this need.

While the Press has found it necessary to adapt to the changing times and the competitiveness of other publishers, it still offers a service that is unique; namely, serving its own denomination, while at the same time offering service to others. As early as the sixties, the Press began the expansion of its bookstores, and now operates three others in addition to the main bookstore in Ayden. Known as "Bible and Bookstores," they are located in three North Carolina towns — Wilson, Kinston, and New Bern.

In 1967, the Press moved into its present building.

In addition to its regular publications, the Press also publishes other printed materials — books, pamphlets, etc. It offers competitive printing services and "Everything in Religious Merchandise."

As the oldest ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, the Press has served as a promoter and protector of the Faith. It is dedicated to serving the Lord and His people through the printed page and the Christian services that are offered. It has proven itself worthy of your support.

## **Introducing the Free Will Baptist Press BIBLE AND BOOKSTORE PERSONNEL**

### ***Ayden Bible and Bookstore***



Lexine Davis  
Bookstore Coordinator



Darren Davenport, Manager  
Lillian McCurdy, Sales Associate



Sharon Early  
Sales Associate



Virginia Turnage  
Merchandising Receiving Clerk

### ***New Bern Bible and Bookstore***



From Left: Joan Miller, Sales Associate; Nell Jernigan, Manager;  
Pam Sasser and Joyce Taylor, Sales Associates



### *Kinston Bible and Bookstore*



From Left: Minnie R. McDaniel and Joyce Brock, Sales Associates; Polly Eubanks, Manager.

### *Wilson Bible and Bookstore*



From Left: Francis Davis, Manager; Emma Cayton and Ollie Rogerson, Sales Associates

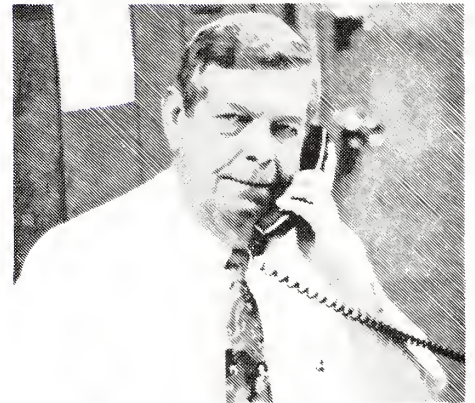
## *Introducing the FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS PERSONNEL*



R. Clifford Gray  
Executive Director



C. H. Overman  
Editor



Robert Hadden  
Printing and Graphic Arts Manager



Faye Avery  
Accounting Manager



Wallie Hargrove  
Accounts Manager

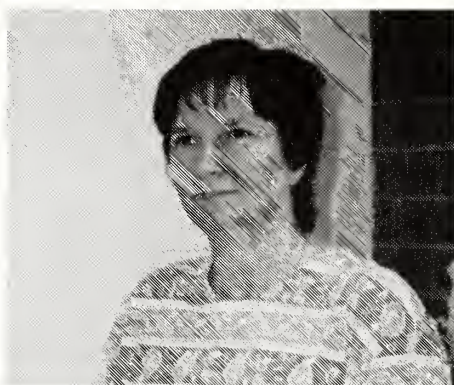


Sheila Benson  
Graphic Designer





Julie P. Dawson  
Graphic Designer



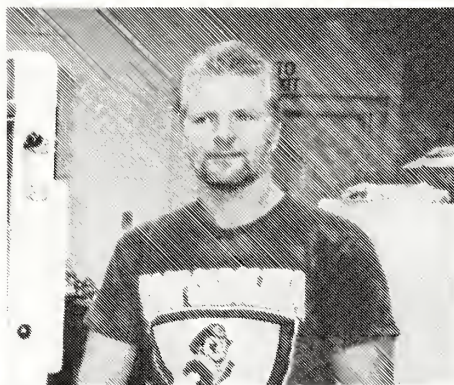
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Editorial Assistant



Mike Scott  
Editorial Assistant



Jerry Goff  
Graphic Artist



Ronnie Jones  
Press Operator



Paul Health  
Press Operator



Randy Doughtie  
Press and Bindery Operator



Nina Fussell  
Bindery and Shipping



1873 - 1998

*Celebrating 125 Years  
of Service  
to Original Free Will Baptists*



# LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

## Convention Officers

|                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| President        | Elmer E. Harrell | Harrell's Chapel |
| Vice President   | Russell Tyson    | Memorial         |
| Secretary        | Harold Humbles   | Saints' Delight  |
| Treasurer        | Robert Tripp     | Juniper Chapel   |
| Pastoral Advisor | Jack Weathersby  | Saints' Delight  |

| <i>Layman's League Board</i> | <i>Conference</i> | <i>Date Term Expires</i> |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Floyd Newsome                | Western           | 1998                     |
| Steve Garner                 | Eastern           | 1998                     |
| Robert Ramsey                | Eastern           | 1998                     |
| Jack Corbett                 | Central           | 1998                     |
| Ralph Sullivan               | Western           | 1999                     |
| Elmer Harrell                | Central           | 1999                     |
| Frank Parsons                | Cape Fear         | 1999                     |
| Wayne Britt                  | Albemarle         | 1999                     |
| Frank Yarborough             | Western           | 2000                     |
| Rex Wainwright               | Central           | 2000                     |
| Randy Tyson                  | Central           | 2000                     |
| Earl Shackelford             | Central           | 2000                     |



1998 newly installed Convention Layman Officers. From left: Advisor-Jack Weathersby, President-Elmer Harrell, Vice President-Russell Tyson, Secretary-Harold Humbles, Treasurer-Robert Tripp, Past President-John Newton.



1998 Tarboro Layman preparing supper for Spiritual Life Retreat.



Convention President, Elmer Harrell and his wife, Nan, having supper with Paul Beaman and his wife, Shirley, and Frank Parsons with his wife, Shirley. Topic of discussion: Layman and country. Pictured left.



Harrell's Chapel Laymen relaxing after preparing supper for church.

## Dates to Remember

|              |                                                                                            |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 3  | Layman's League Promotional Committee<br>VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7:30 PM                  |
| September 14 | Central Conference Layman's League<br>Bethany FWB Church, Supper 7:00 PM, Business 7:45 PM |



# Camp Vandemere

## Our Family Enrichment Center

### ***How do you spell CAMP VANDEMERE?***

*by Greg and Cynthia Mills*

Fun times, new friends, delicious food, exciting music, and interesting Bible classes spell CAMP VANDEMERE. Young people and adults alike have enjoyed many days this summer at camp.

One of the opening youth camps took place back in May over the Memorial Day weekend with Ray and Ginny Conner and Greg and Cynthia Mills as camp directors. The theme "What If I Give All" appropriately kicked off the Mission Retreat '98. The music, Bible classes, and chapel services centered around the theme. Each director shared with the campers about "Giving God Our All." Bible study topics included "Commitment," "Discipleship: Radical Christianity," "Responding to God's Call," and "The Priorities of Jesus." Appropriate lessons on the theme were taught by Chenoah Styron and Debbie Garner to the younger campers.

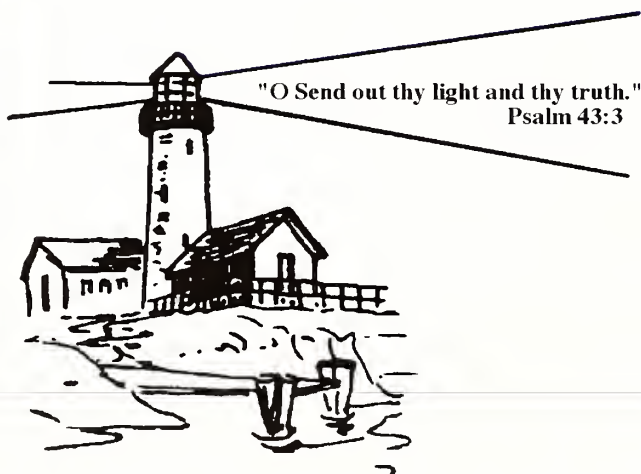
A highlight of the Retreat was an evening message, "The Consequences of Discipleship," preached by the Rev. Harold Jones. The challenge was very personal and poignant: Would we be willing to GIVE our very LIVES for CHRIST? Armed guards surprisingly bombarded the service and threatened to kidnap and shoot the one proclaiming the gospel. This was, of course, planned and staged, but it *does* occur in some parts of our world. It *could* happen in America! How would *we* respond?

The pinnacle of the Retreat was to witness the lives being changed through the various activities at camp. A teenage girl gave her heart to the Lord through the Bible studies and the Christian testimony of other campers. Other young people committed their lives to Christ and responded positively to the question "What If I Give All" by surrendering their whole heart, soul, body, and mind to Christ.

*That* is what Camp Vandemere is really about — children, teens, and adults giving their hearts to Christ and surrendering their lives totally to Him!

Make plans now to be a part of Camp Vandemere next year. Better yet, call now and plan a weekend retreat this fall for your church group. Besides having lots of fun and being with other Christian people, you may just go home a changed person for our Lord Jesus Christ. And that's how you *really* spell CAMP VANDEMERE!

### **Support Camp Vandemere with your prayers and financial contributions**



For information concerning the ministry of  
Camp Vandemere contact:

Rev. Owen Arthur  
600 Half Moon Road  
New Bern, NC 28560  
(252) 633-1185

Mr. Aldric Gaskins  
745 Washington Post Road  
New Bern, NC 28560  
(252) 637-4949

# Denominational Ministries

## HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

SIDE

BY

SIDE



*Side By Side* we can "cast our bread upon the waters" (Ecclesiastes 11:1), to teach those persons in America who do not claim any association with any Christian group. Home Missions and Evangelism needs your concern, your prayers, and your financial support for:

- Church Planting
- Ethnic Missions
- Deaf Missions
- Spanish Missions
- Scripture Distribution
- Disaster Relief Ministry
- Project Kids Kare
- Harvest Covenant Program

We are asking you and your church to give a contribution at our 1998 Convention Mission Rally on Wednesday night, September 16, 1998, to help us follow our assignment of Touching Lives For A Lifetime.

**Important:** To be sure that your contribution goes to help Home Missions and Evangelism in *Expanding His Kingdom*, place your check or cash in the designated envelope.

Remember, September is Home Missions and Evangelism Month in all Original Free Will Baptist Churches. We need your help and are depending upon your support and prayers.

Your church should, during the month of September, set aside a Sunday for special prayer and for receiving a contribution for this ministry.

The opportunity to spread God's Word is in the hands of our congregations. Will you and your church accept the challenge to help Home Missions and Evangelism fulfill our assignment? These opportunities for "casting our bread upon the waters" are for every Original Free Will Baptist to pursue. We are assured that we will be rewarded for our work, "for thou shall find it after many days." Side by side we can Expand His Kingdom.

**Remember September is  
Home Missions and  
Evangelism Month**

*Disaster Relief  
A Ministry of*



## Gethsemane Makes Contribution



*From left: The Revs. Bobby Jones, David C. Hansley, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, Mr. Grover Mills, Jr. Chairman of Deacons.*

The Gethsemane Original Free Will Baptist Church near New Bern, North Carolina, recently made a contribution of \$5,000.00, to the DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY of Home Missions and Evangelism. This contribution will aid with providing funds for equipment for the Command Trailer.

The proposes of "The Disaster Relief Ministry" of Original Free Will Baptist are:

- To provide the skills of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, cleaning, repairs, and other skills for those who have experienced disaster.
- To provide the opportunity for Original Free Will Baptists to be involved in a Compassion Ministry, sharing our Christian experiences.



# Cragmont Assembly

## *A Report to the 1998 Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*



The property that is now Cragmont Assembly was purchased by the Free Will Baptists in 1945 to provide a place of spiritual retreat. Since the first Cragmont encampments were held in 1946, "inspiration, instruction, and recreation" have been the goal of the camp directors, counselors, and group leaders. While in the early years of Cragmont's history, we were known as a "summer camp," for many years now we have offered a year-round program. We have Woman's Auxiliary Conferences, the Minister's Conference, youth camps, senior mid-week retreats, weekend church retreats, winter ski retreats, rafting and touring groups, and Cragmont Club retreats. There is something for everyone... even those just needing a place to stay overnight. The following was written in 1972 by De Wayne Eakes in "Cragmont Assembly Inc. A Brief History." *"Cragmont's greatest historical and future value is to be found in the lives that are changed, inspired and enriched by this Mountain Top Ministry."* Cragmont has an important role to play in the lives of Free Will Baptist people. We want to be an extension of the ministry that is already going on in the local church.

### **John's "Want" List**

2 Gas Golf Carts — \$2,000 per cart  
400 Stacking chairs for dining room and chapel — \$50 per chair  
44 New mattresses for the boys dorm — \$100 per mattress  
A 2nd bathroom for the Hollifield House — ???  
Roof over the new deck at the dining hall — \$3,000  
New towels and wash cloths, White — Best price you can find.

*Come, let us go up to the mountain  
of the Lord...He will teach us his  
ways, so that we may walk in  
his paths (Isaiah 2:3 NIV).*



Currently, Cragmont's Board of Directors are Gary Bailey (Vice Chair), Grace Barbour (Secretary), Mike Barnhill, Donald Coates (Chair), Carol Davis, Harry Grubbs, Nancy Hardee, Sharlene Howell, Lloyd Jones, Velma Morris, Jimmy Stocks, and Cheryl Williams.



## *Needs for the not too distant future*

- New Dorms
- Auditorium & Classroom Building
- Larger Kitchen & Dining Facility
- New Gym

## *Improvements to the facility*

- Renovations of the south end, lobby, and offices to include: new beds, bed bases, private baths, new carpet, wallpaper, new curtains, ventilation fans, mattresses, spreads, sheets.
- Wider steps in the lobby
- Air conditioning and gas heat for the chapel
- New mirrors in main building rooms
- New glass to replace old damaged windows in the main building
- New shingles for the north end of main building

## *Attendance record for 1998*

- Ski Weekends — 859
- Spring Retreats — 600
- June Women's Conference — 50
- Minister's Conference — 94
- Christian Cadet Conference — 178
- Youth Frontier Conference YFA — 91
- Youth Frontier Conference AFC — 107
- General Youth Conference I — 221
- General Youth Conference II — 210
- Young People's Bible Conference — 51
- August Women's Conference — 102
- Fall Retreat — hoping for 1200-1500
- 51 professions of faith during the summer conferences

## **A Place of**



## **Smiles! Memories!**



## **Unforgettable Moments!**



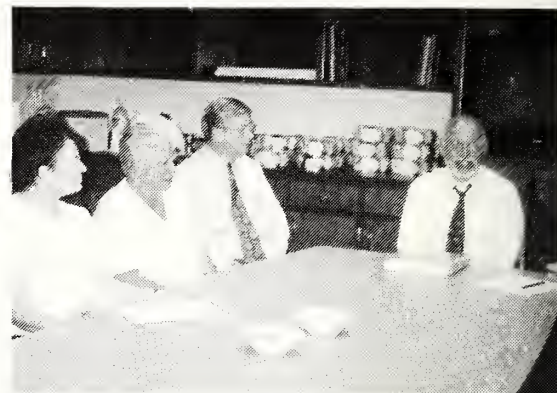


## Peer Reviewers Visit Children's Home

June 1-2, 1998, were two very important days for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. Peer Reviewers visited our campus to evaluate our facilities and programs to help determine our qualifications to meet the National Accreditation standards for Family and Children Services.

Mr. Robert H. Mills from Muskegon, Michigan, and Mr. Ronald L. Brown from Austin, Texas, were the Peer Reviewers chosen for our facility. They spent two days talking with our staff, our children, people in our community and board members. They studied our business procedures, our on-site programs for children, inspected our buildings, and toured all of our facilities including our Emergency Shelter in Wilson.

A response from the National Association on Accreditation is expected by the end of August. We were very pleased with the on-site visit and anticipate positive results from all of our hard work and efforts.



*Mr. Robert Mills was the team leader. He met with the staff at the Children's Home to discuss the review process and to put us all at ease.*



*Mr. Mills and Mr. Brown interviewed members of the community at a breakfast held Tuesday morning, the second day of the review.*

*Dr. Taylor answered questions and discussed policy and procedures with the Reviewers. Pictured right.*



*Ron Brown discussed functions of the board with board member Franklin Vester. The Rev. Phillip Boykin, Chairman of the Board was also present for the interview process. Pictured left.*



*Mr. Batchelor, Director of Physical Affairs assisted the review team with touring our campus facilities.*

*The reviewers interviewed some of the children on campus during a dinner at Heritage Hall. Pictured right.*





Don't Miss

*The Annual Convention Mission Rally*

September 16, 1998 7:30 PM

**Special Guest: Mrs. Lucy Timmons**

College Hall, Mount Olive College

Board of Foreign Missions

(OFWB International) In Charge

Come visit the fields with us through music, testimonies and visual aids.

Program Personalities: Missionaries, Tour Groups, Short-Term Team Members

*Special Music by "Called Out"***WHY NOT CALL OFF PRAYER MEETING AND COME TO THE RALLY?**

This will be an exciting evening that you will long remember.

**SPECIAL OFFERING:** Your special offering at this Mission Rally is vital for the continued growth of your missions program. Begin to pray NOW and ask God to reveal to you what your contribution should be this year.**REMEMBER:** Your special gift to Foreign Missions at the Mission Rally must be designated. If for some reason you cannot attend the Rally, you can mail your gift and receive credit for the Rally offering.



## *News Letter from India and Nepal*

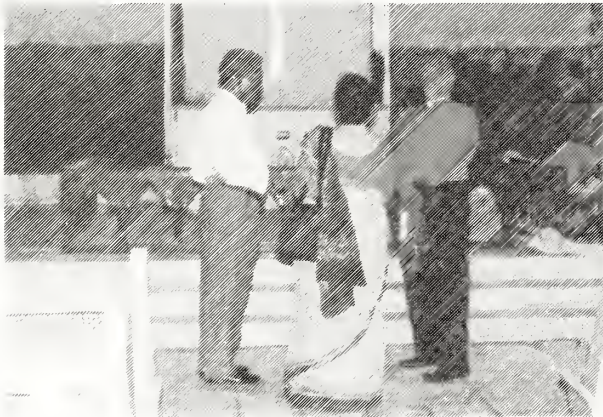
*Submitted by Dr. E. M. Lall*

The Free Will Baptist Church of India and Nepal are being blessed by the Lord in respect of achievements of evangelization, meeting various needs of the church and upliftment and encouragement received from various circles. It happens when we follow the ways of the Lord.

Bishop Prakash of Anglican Church of India suddenly wrote me and visited our church at Bareilly which once was the property of his church. He was very happy to see the church completely renovated and developed and remarked that "it is a well maintained church." He also said that your church really deserved to have this property. His property officer, Mr. Prince Solanki told me that the Bishop wants to negotiate with me with regard to many abandoned properties whether they would be of our use.



*Mr. Prince Solanki liason officer of Bishop Prakash offers some property on the hills for our church use, seeing good maintenance of our church.*



The Lord has blessed us with 42 new converts within three months time. They are growing in His nearness and are being prepared to be His witness.

The Rev. A. G. Joseph, pastor of our English Service has been blessed with a new scooter arranged by the Rev. Harold Jones, our Director-Treasurer. The Rev. Joseph is an honorary pastor leading English Worship Service every Sunday. He meets all his expenses in carrying out his ministerial duties.

The church work is growing in the country of Nepal and souls are being saved from perishing. The schools are doing very well. The work is being done through the indigenous leadership of the country since it is closed for preaching by other religions except the Hindus. The Government has confiscated some organizational properties and banned their religious activities.



*Rev. A. G. Joseph, pastor of English service with a new scooter provided by the Rev. Harold Jones, Director-Treasurer. Pictured left.*





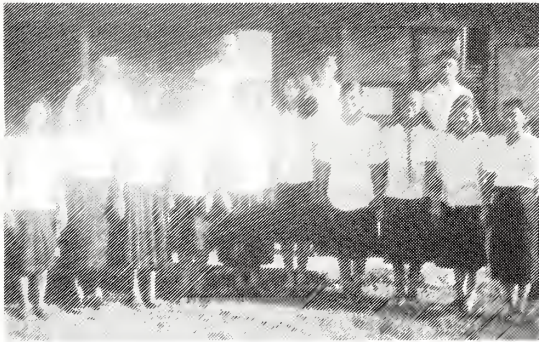
# *New Students at the Palawan Bible College and the Free Will Baptist Learning Center*

*by Brother Fidel B. Presto*

It is wonderful to look back upon the day that Christ saved us, but it is even more satisfying to know that He is within us, filling our lives with gladness and leading us ever on to new experiences of His grace.

That is the way the Palawan Bible College and the Free Will Baptist Learning Center life is. It is always better the longer we walk with Christ. So, because of that, the sequel of the Palawan Bible College and the Free Will Baptist Learning Center becomes more blessing and growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and Saviour.

The Palawan Bible College has fourteen enrolled students this S.Y. 1998–1999. The faculty and staff always pray to the Lord that these fourteen enrolled students will continue their studies until they finish and to serve the Lord for the glory of God's Kingdom. Also, the children in the school of Free Will Baptist Learning Center inside the Palawan Bible College Campus are increasing numbers with the total of forty-nine pupils this S.Y. 1998–1999. So with all of these blessings the faculty and staff give thanks to the Lord because our God is the Creator of all things. All Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power belong unto our God.



*Student body Palawan Bible College, pictured left.*

*Student, faculty, and staff of the Free Will Baptist Learning Center, pictured right.*



## **FOREIGN MISSIONS**

### *Parsonage Dedication "Giving Back the Honor and Glory to God"*

Last June 8, 1998, the Rev. Dario Basingil, Mission Director of the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines, and Brother Ricardo Salinas the contractor, went to Brooke's Point to dedicate the parsonage that was built by the Short-Term Team, headed by the Rev. Harold Jones and Sandra Jones last April 1998. The Rev. Dario Basingil emphasized in his message that we must give back to the Lord the honor and glory for everything we have received. The Dedication Service was very meaningful to every believer who joined the said ceremony. And everyone received the spiritual food as well as physical food. Glory to God now and forever.



*Parsonage at completion.*



*Merienda Time after Dedication*



*Seated on right, the Rev. Dario Basingil, Missions Director and on left, Brother Cardias Salinas, contractor.*

## **DO NOT WAIT ANY LONGER**

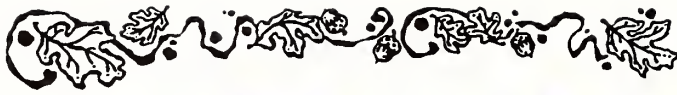
If you are considering joining a Short-Term Team in 1999 we need to hear from you by September 18, 1998. Contact us today to have your name added to the list (252-746-4963). Specify the place you desire to serve and the date of your choice.

**Philippines: April 17–May 2; Mexico: June 12–22;**

**Mexico: July 10–20; Mexico (Youth Camp): August 14–24**

**Note:** It may be necessary to add another week if the response demands it.





# September



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Thir

| SUN |  | MON                                                                                                   | TUE                                            |    |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----|
| 30  |  | 31                                                                                                    | 1                                              | 2  |
| 6   |  | 7<br>Headquarter's Closed<br>FWB Press Closed<br><br><i>Labor Day</i>                                 | 8<br>FWB Press Membership Meeting              | 9  |
| 13  |  | 14<br>Layman's League<br>Central Conference<br>Bethany FWB Church<br>Supper 7:00 PM, Business 7:45 PM | 15<br><div>CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE V</div> | 16 |
| 20  |  | 21                                                                                                    | 22<br><br><i>Autumn Begins</i>                 | 23 |
| 27  |  | 28                                                                                                    | 29                                             | 30 |

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS

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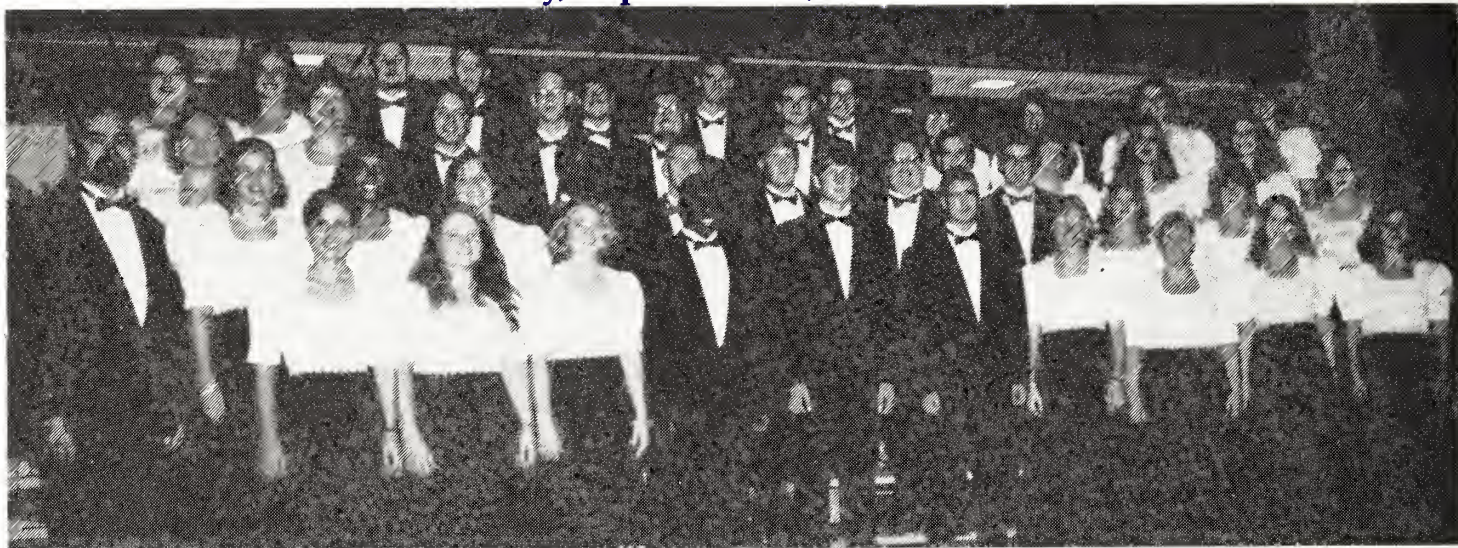
Remember \_\_\_\_\_

| THU                           |                                                                                           | FRI       | SAT                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                               | <b>3</b><br>Layman's League Promotional<br>Committee, VFW Building,<br>Snow Hill, 7:30 PM | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>                                                                                           |
|                               | <b>10</b>                                                                                 | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b>                                                                                          |
|                               | <b>17</b>                                                                                 | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br>National Children's Day                                                               |
| BAPTIST — MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE |                                                                                           |           |                                                                                                    |
|                               | <b>24</b><br>Eastern Auxiliary                                                            | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br>Central Auxiliary<br><br>Bridge Builders<br>Lois K. Murphy Regional Center<br>5:30 PM |
|                               | <b>1</b>                                                                                  | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>                                                                                           |



# BRIDGE BUILDERS APPRECIATION DINNER

**Mount Olive College**  
**Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**  
**Saturday, September 26, 1998 at 6:00 PM**



*The Mount Olive College Concert Choir*

The Concert Choir is comprised of approximately 50 students enrolled at the Mount Olive Campus. The Choir and Free Spirit, a 12 member vocal ensemble, will provide a 30-minute program of traditional and contemporary sacred selections. This concert is presented as a gesture of the College's gratitude to Free Will Baptists for their continued support. In seeing these young men and women, we hope that you will share in the pride of the College and feel that the College's service to young men and women is worthy of the Church's continued support.

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir provides Fall and Spring concerts. The Concert Choir and Free Spirit ministers to churches in the region as part of their music ministry. Dr. Alan Armstrong, Professor of Music, is the Choir Director.

While this event honors the 1,702 Bridge Builders from the 1997 church dinners, all friends of the College are invited. Bridge Builders, those who make an unrestricted gift of \$100 or more at their county gift support dinners, have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Mount Olive College.

## REPLY FORM

**(Please return by Monday, September 21, 1998)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 26, 1998.  
There will be \_\_\_\_\_ in my party attending.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Including Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail to: Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss**  
**Mount Olive College • 634 Henderson Street • Mount Olive, NC 28365**  
**Phone (919)658-2502 or (800) 653-0854**  
**(All Friends of Mount Olive College Are Invited)**



## P. T. Lucas Award Winner

The Rev. Franklin Baggett, pastor of Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, has been named the 1998 recipient of the P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award.

Baggett was recognized during a luncheon on August 3, at the fifth annual James A. Evans Lecture held at Mount Olive College's Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. The theme of this year's ministries institute was: "Come, Let Us Worship!"

Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington started sponsoring the annual event in 1994 in an effort to foster the outstanding pastoral qualities he observed in the Rev. James A. Evans, a minister who served at Morris' home church, Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Wayne County.

The P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award is sponsored by Morris in honor of his great-grandfather who was a Free Will Baptist minister early in this century. The award was established to recognize outstanding service rendered by Free Will Baptist pastors. It recognizes a Free Will Baptist pastor for extraordinary leadership and service to his church, community and denomination. Emphasis is placed on pastoral services and may include bi-vocational pastors who serve small churches. The award recipient receives \$1,000 to be used to strengthen and enrich pastoral ministries.

Baggett has served as pastor of Elm Grove FWB Church for more than two years. When he came to the Pitt County church the average Sunday morning service attendance had declined to 57 people. Today, the church averages 150 to 175 people each Sunday morning. Thirty-nine new believers have been baptized and the church has received 32 new members by letter in the past couple of years.

Baggett also was instrumental in church renovation projects involving the educational facility and sanctuary. Under his leadership, Elm Grove has bought 15 acres of land behind the church for future expansion. A softball field has been developed on part of the property.

Baggett also has helped develop youth programs and outreach ministries. He hired a part-time youth minister and encouraged the church to buy a new van to enhance outreach programs.

Gary Evans, the church's deacon chairman, and other leaders of Elm Grove wrote a letter endorsing their pastor for the award. "Frankie has proven to be a success story in eastern North Carolina, and I feel very honored to submit his name to you for recognition," Evans wrote. "He has done a lot for Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church, and should be recognized for his efforts in our denomination."

In addition to his duties at Elm Grove, Baggett has served on several denominational and community committees.

## P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award nominees



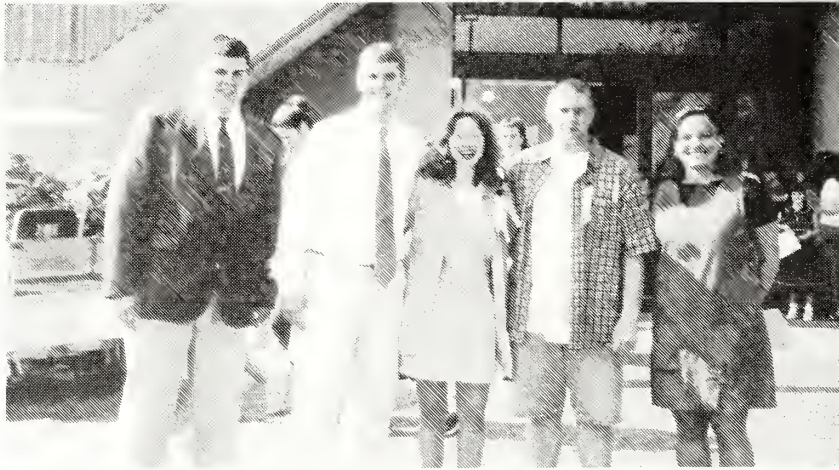
From left: Greg Mills, Juniper Chapel; Terry Ellis, Silver Creek; John Mark Windley, Whaley's Chapel; Frankie Baggett, Elm Grove; Bruce Jones, King's Cross Roads; James Joyner, Kenly; and Ray Wells, Marsh Swamp.

## Events at MOC in September

|                            |                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, September 1       | 11:00 AM — MOC Fall Convocation, College Hall                                                          |
| Tuesday, September 8       | 5:30 PM — Cohort MOD #34 Convocation, MOC at New Bern                                                  |
| Wednesday, September 9     | 9:00 AM — Cohort CJP #8 Convocation, MOC campus, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Hennessee Room        |
| Thursday, September 10     | 5:30 PM — Cohort CJP #3 & #4 Convocation, MOC at RTP                                                   |
| Monday, September 14       | 5:30 PM — Cohort MOD #22 Convocation, MOC at Wilmington                                                |
| Tuesday, September 15      | 5:30 PM — Cohort CJP #5 Convocation, MOC at New Bern                                                   |
| Tues-Thur, September 15-17 | Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, MOC campus, College Hall and Lois K. Murphy Regional Center |
| Tuesday, September 22      | 5:30 PM — Cohort CM #1 Convocation, MOC at New Bern                                                    |
| Thursday, September 24     | 5:30 PM — Cohort MOD #23 Convocation, MOC at Wilmington                                                |
| Thursday, September 24     | 5:30 PM — Cohort MOD #6 Convocation, MOC at RTP                                                        |
| Saturday, September 26     | 5:30 PM — Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center                          |
| Tuesday, September 29      | 5:30 PM — Cohort MOD #24 Convocation, MOC at Wilmington                                                |



## State Youth Leaders Mount Olive College Bound



These Free Will Baptist young people were caught outside College Hall during youth weekend making plans for their upcoming year at Mount Olive College. Brandon Jenkins, President, freshman from Whaley's Chapel; Scott Satterfield, Corresponding Secretary, freshman from Pleasant Grove; Clair Taylor, Vice-President, freshman from Hickory Chapel; Brad Piner, out going Vice-President, freshman from Juniper Chapel; and Kristen Carroll, Treasurer, sophomore from Wooten's Chapel.

## Freshman Orientation at MOC



From left: John Hill, Newport, Holy Springs FWB; Erin Smithwick, Blunts Creek, Core Point Chapel; Brandon Jenkins, Richlands, Whaley's Chapel; and Tim Woodard, MOC Admission Director.

## Convocation Speaker

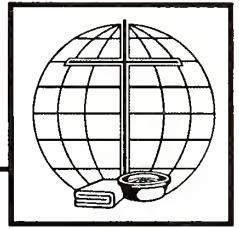


*Dr. J. William Byrd and Dr. Bernie Adkins*

Dr. J. William Byrd speaks with Dr. Bernie Adkins, convocation speaker, during the opening convocation for the Triangle Campus. Dr. Adkins, grew up in the St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church, New Bern, graduated from Mount Olive College in 1967, East Carolina in 1969 with his Bachelor of Arts, and in 1972 with his Master of Arts in Biology. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 1978 with his Ph.D in Microbiology. Dr. Adkins now lives in Raleigh and is Vice-President of the Environmental Research and Testing Division of ManTech Environmental Technology, Inc. located in Research Triangle Park.







## Westside Church Celebrates Burning of 30-Year Note

Westside Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston, NC, celebrated its twenty-first Anniversary on May 3, 1998. An exciting part of the celebration was the burning of the 30-year note on the new sanctuary. The first payment on the note was made June 1, 1988, and the final payment was made April 23, 1998, only 9 years, 10 months and 21 days after the note was signed by the Trustees. It was a joyous occasion for the Westside congregation as they praised God for this achievement.

Pastor Jeff Daughtry asked Jack Everett, a charter member and building committee chairman at the time of the construction of the sanctuary, to lead the note burning service and assist him in burning the note.

In his remarks concerning the construction of the building, Everett recognized the total membership for its teamwork in the preliminary planning, fund raising and extra donations of items such as the steeple, church pews, pulpit furniture, stained glass windows, vestibule windows, baptistry and other items.

He pointed out carpentry work that was voluntarily done by three dedicated men of the church, Horace Stroud and David Hobbs, both deceased, and George Winborne, who is still an active member of the church. "Without the many hours of work donated by these three men, we would not be able to enjoy this beautifully designed sanctuary," Everett told the congregation of nearly 200.

In closing, the pastor recognized Everett for his many volunteer hours spent in helping with building of the sanctuary.

Future building plans include a Family Life Center to be constructed in the near future.



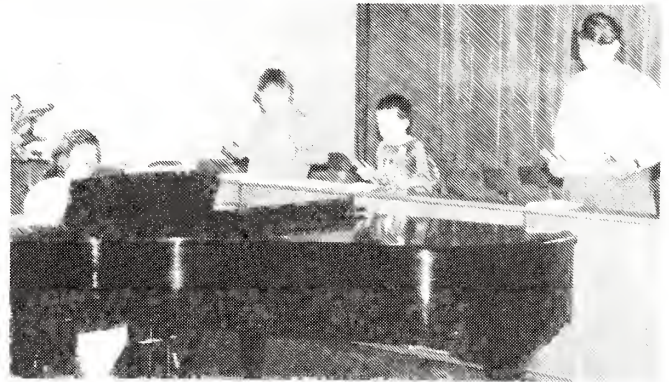
Pastor Jeff Daughtry (left) and Jack Everett

## Special Music

The North Carolina State League Convention met at Mount Olive College, May 16, 1998, in connection with the State Youth Convention. Among the highlights of the meeting was the special music.



Clair Taylor of Hickory Chapel gave special music on the piano. Pictured above.



Jason Williams, Timothy Howell and Hillary Williams from Goldsboro League presented a handbell trio. Pictured above.



Michelle Hoggard and Sara Jones of Hickory Chapel League presented "The Touch of the Master's Hand." Picture left.



### *Holly Springs Sunday School Celebrates 110 Years*

On July 7, 1888, the people of the Holly Spring community in Newport, NC held a meeting and resolved to organize a Sunday school. In 1887, the community established and built a school for their children, and the Sunday school would meet in that building on Sundays. (The building was also used for community meetings and parties.)

The following Sunday school officers were elected: R. C. Garner, superintendent; J. A. Mann, secretary; Bettie Garner, treasurer; and D. S. Quinn, librarian. There were four men's classes and three ladies' classes.

On July 12, 1998, the current Sunday school officers, Mike Noonan, superintendent; Peggy Mason, assistant superintendent; Ava Clark, secretary; and Faye Smith, secretary, coordinated a birthday party for the Sunday school in honor of 110 years of Christian education.

During Sunday school assembly, a history of the Sunday school was read by Peggy Horrell, Christian Education Board. During the morning service hour, Sunday school teachers, assistants, and officers were honored with pins and a special musical presentation by Rob Robinson.

Following services, a covered-dish lunch was enjoyed in the fellowship hall. A large birthday cake, baked and decorated by Phil and Mary Gurganus, was almost too pretty to eat!

After lunch, young and old participated in the many games and activities offered including volleyball and a slip and slide. The celebration ended with a snow cone for everyone.

Not only was it a day of celebration, but a day of thankfulness...for the wisdom and vision of the community in the 1880s to create the Sunday school, for the effort of many dedicated Christians throughout the years that have caused its continuation, for the 140 in attendance on this date, and for the many decisions made for Christ because there is a Sunday school.



*Above Sunday school officers, from left: Mike Noonan, superintendent; Peggy Mason, assistant superintendent; Ava Clark, secretary (not pictured, Faye Smith, secretary.)*



*Pictured left: 110th Birthday cake made by Phil and Mary Gurganus.*

### *Living Waters Holds Successful Bible Club*

*Submitted by the Rev. Danny M. Smith*

Child Evangelism Fellowship held a five-day Bible Club, July 20-24 at Living Waters Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC. Wilma Foote of Mount Olive, the area representative, actually held our youth's attention for an hour while she and her helper taught the Bible with songs, stories, and games. Foote reported that out of 500 children ministered to this summer, our group gave the most to missions (\$48.03).

To cap off the week, The Carrolls from Roanoke Rapids arrived on their tour bus and ministered Sunday morning with live singing and puppets. The result of our efforts netted five definite decisions for Christ. Those children were: Jeremy Fleming, Matt Lane, Cory Smith, Megan Cansler, and Kristina Deutsche.

### *Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church Youth Outing*

*submitted by Anna Winn Beaman*

On Friday, July 31, 1998, the AFC and Cherub groups from Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, went to White Lake. The group left the church around 8:00 AM and arrived at the lake around 10:00 AM. They enjoyed a day of fun in the sun, a picnic lunch, and Putt-Putt golf. After departing the lake, they went to Elizabethtown for supper at Burger King and returned to the church around 7:30 PM. Those attending were as follows: Morgan Albritton, Chandler Barrow, Shelley Beaman, Jessica Edens, Dana Harrison, Cody Hawkins, Andrew Jarman, Timothy Jarman, Jordan Jones, Josh Jones, Blake Laur, Cameron Shelton, Phillip Shelton, Dana Spivey, Emily Tripp, and Ashton Wood. Chaperons included Roxanne Barrow, Jack and Anna Winn Beaman, Pete and Judy Beaman, Tad and Charlotte Shelton, and Dawn Jarman.



## Lazy Days of Summer Are Busy Days at Powhatan

*submitted by Rita Otto Jones*

The parsonage which served as a home to Powhatan's preachers in the past has been sold. It will probably be moved from the lot by the printing of this news item. The membership felt it was necessary to provide room to expand the church. It also reflects that a house is no longer a necessary requirement in hiring a preacher.

Our youth enjoyed the General Conference Week at Cragmont from July 20-25. But did the Camp enjoy our youth? We had one who got too homesick to make it the whole week. Another fell from a top bunk during the night, broke her arm (both lower bones), and bruised her chin. Faitha Crowe was kept busy taking care of our girls and we appreciate her "counseling" as well as communicating, nursing, etc., during camp week. Cragmont campers Krystal McLeod, Brittany Gordan, Dani Allen, and Nikki Jones performed a couple of the songs they learned at camp at our Sunday night service on July 26. The youth are already looking forward to next year and encouraging those who didn't go to plan on it in 1999.

The Ladies Auxiliary is planning a fall fundraiser for September 12 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to come by and buy baked goods, canned goods, crafts, etc., to help support the Auxiliary.

Please mark your calendars for our homecoming and fall revival coming up on September 20-25. The Rev. Lloyd Hargis will be bringing the Homecoming message on Sunday and the Rev. Jerry Stephenson will be our Revival speaker.

*In Memoriam:* Dwight Stephenson, a pillar of Powhatan, passed away on July 16 at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife, Ethel, a daughter, two sons, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Please remember his family in your prayers.

## Cape Fear District Host Fun Day

*submitted by Rita Otto Jones*

On Saturday, August 1, the Cape Fear District of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, sponsored a "Fun Day" at White Lake in Bladen County. The District had 15 of its 32-member churches involved in the event which hosted the children from the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. There are normally around fifty children living at the home. Twenty-eight of them were able to come and enjoy a day of swimming, games, meals, and ice-cream with the district youth.

The FFA camp where the Youth Rally was held features other recreation besides swimming. Groups played softball, basketball, putt-putt, ping-pong, horseshoes, etc. Around 350 people came for the day of fellowship. Powhatan Church in Clayton had 46 people attending, and a church member (who wished to remain anonymous) chartered a bus so everyone could ride together. A special thank you to him and to the bus service "Joy" Transportation and their driver for the safe and wonderful trip.



*President Scott Satterfield ringing the lunch bell for all the swimmers to "come and get it" when the noon hotdog and hamburger meal was ready.*

*The softball game was a lot of fun and the cooler temperatures (80s as opposed to 90s) made the sports less draining for the group.*



*A pier-full and lake-full of Cape Fear District members enjoying the day.*



## People & Events

### Christ Church Observes Homecoming

*submitted by the Rev. David Atkins*

On August 2, 1998, Christ Free Will Baptist Church, Stokesdale, North Carolina, celebrated its twenty-seventh Homecoming. The day began with Sunday school at 10:00 AM, followed by a morning worship service of testimonies from founding members, and others, intervened with songs of praise from one of the church quartets, and other individuals. A brief history of the church was read by the Rev. David Atkins, Pastor, and he also led the congregation in the responsive reading, rededicating the church of God and his service. The church was filled with pictures taken during various activities from its beginning to the present, and enjoyed by all.

Perfect attendance for Sunday school is always recognized on Homecoming Day. Several members received pins including Brother Curtis Stevens, one of the deacons, who received his 23-year pin!

The morning service was concluded with a ritual mortgage burning, signifying that the properties are debt-free. Following this and the benediction, everyone enjoyed a delicious feast in the Fellowship Building.



*Nancy and Curtis Stevens (Curtis is wearing his Sunday School Perfect Attendance Pins)*



*Pat Hicks, displaying photos*



*Mortgage Burning from left: Wayne Hicks, Junior Deacon; Fred Hicks, Deacon; Curtis Stevens, Deacon; and Rev. David Atkins, Pastor*

### A Special Sign



The Wildwood Free Will Baptist Church, Garner, NC, recently displayed the sign pictured above. As the Cleveland community awaited the opening of a Dairy Queen, the church took advantage of the news. A local newspaper took the picture for publication. The pastor of the church is the Rev. Eddie Franks.

### Ministerial Association Officers

At its annual meeting in June at Cragmont Assembly, the North Carolina Original Free Will Baptist Ministerial Association reelected all its officers for another two-year term.



*Pictured with President Harold Swinson (center) are: from left, the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, member at large; Billy Hardee, vice president; Doug Skinner, treasurer; and Philip Boykin, secretary.*

### Part Time Youth Director

Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg, NC is searching for a part-time Youth Director. Please send your resume to the Christian Education Board, Free Union Church, Route 2, Box 297, Walstonburg, NC 27888.

### Director of Youth Ministries

Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC is searching for a Director of Youth Ministries. Send resume with education, training, and three reference to: David Bunn, 1106 Gurley Dairy Road, Pikeville, NC 27863.



### Cragmont Woman's Conference — August 3–8, 1998

by May Pittman, District Missions Chairman



Monday morning, August 3, was an exciting time for one hundred women in eastern North Carolina, the reason, it was "Cragmont time!" Two bus loads and several cars of women descended on Cragmont Assembly at different hours on Monday afternoon. A gracious welcome was extended by the staff and a happy reunion time for those we had not seen for a year.

Dinner was at 6:00, and afterward everyone gathered in our newly air-conditioned chapel for information and announcements by Donna Holland, director. The staff for the week was introduced and our tally showed 100 in attendance with five conferences represented. We had five first timers, three state officers, six ministers' wives, six sets of sisters and six sets of mother-daughters. Our youngest was 14 and our more experienced at 86 and 89. Teresa Ball, registrar, read Psalm 121 and led in devotions. She then led a delightful time of acquaintance in which we were to get autographs of 11 preprinted names on a page. It was good to meet new people and to reunite with friends made in the past. Then on to bed for much needed rest after a long day.

Each morning, Tuesday-Friday, we began our day with devotions at 7:45, led by the Albemarle District: Tuesday, Mina Ross; Wednesday, Sara Parker; Thursday, Judy Cox; Friday, Linda

Hutzler. These were taken from various chapters of Proverbs. Breakfast was at 8:00 each morning followed by sing-along at 9:30 and 11:00, led by Alma Dale Cox. We were accompanied by Jo Ann Parrish on the piano and Kerrie Clayton on the organ.

Becky Jo Sumner led our Bible Study at 9:45 and 11:15 each morning. She titled her messages "Chasing the Wind," based on the Book of Ecclesiastes. We studied about Solomon who voiced "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity" and what is the value, the advantage of what I do with my everyday life. She stated that nothing you do in this life is in vain if you live according to the will of God. She said that Solomon started out as a scientist, then as a historian, and ends as a philosopher. It's in endless circles — if this is what life is, is it worth living? And it will be if we hold on to God. Solomon found nothing better, because there is nothing better, than the wisdom of God. Life is tough and is difficult without the circle of Jesus, Who makes life worth living. He also found that no matter what you try, it's not going to work if it's not God-centered. What gives us true joy and true pleasure is not entertainment, recreation or accomplishments, but fellowship with God. We should give glory to God or we're back to vanity again. If we give God our time, He will make it beautiful for

us. Becky Jo stated that we sometimes have our priorities mixed up and the Book of Ecclesiastes gives us some practical advice for practical living. Yesterday is gone, tomorrow is not here yet, so we should live today in the will of God. We should accept both the good and bad in our lives and realize that God's love is steadfast. And there is one event that comes to all — death. God has given us love here, but the best is yet to come — in our Father's house. Because God lives, we don't say, "All is vanity." We are to avoid folly; wisdom from God should be our guide. We do not own our lives; they are a gift from God. We are stewards and we must give an account of what we have done with them. So our answer to "Is life worth living?" is yes, if we live in God. Life is futile without God; it's only "Chasing the Wind." We all felt very inspired by such beautiful messages which gave us something to carry home and live day by day.

Monday-Thursday night, Becky Jo led us in a self study, using 1 Kings 3:5–28; 10:1–8, 24; 11:9 and 2 Chronicles 9:1–12. This was also a study of Solomon, his use of wisdom, a visit from the Queen of Sheba, and his downfall. This was a very informative time as each person shared thoughts on these subjects.

Lunch was at 12:00 each day, and afternoons were free for resting, fellowshiping, and of course shopping. Tuesday afternoon, some were off to Bon Worth and Black Mountain. Wednesday afternoon was a visit to "The Cove" and a tour of the Chapel. From there, it was over to Chimney Rock to browse in the shops and a sunset cruise on Lake Lure. The boat docked at a lakeside restaurant and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal. Then back to shore and the ride back to Cragmont. Thursday afternoon was shopping time again: the Asheville Mall, Hamrick's and Farmer's Market. Some enjoyed a visit to The Carpenter Shop, a family Christian bookstore, and



a ride to Montreat to view the beautiful small town that is home to Billy Graham and his family.

Friday afternoon at 3:00 was fun time and what a fun time it was! We were visited by Minnie Pearl, Father Noah and his family, Pudgy, and Alfalfa. Some entertained us with songs and skits. Sandra Jones shared comments about the short term trips to the Philippines and Mexico and asked that we consider joining them for the 1999 trips.

Tuesday morning we were informed that Linda Jackson was celebrating a birthday, so we sang to her, but she never told us how old she is.

When we saw a large banquet of red roses in the dining hall, we became curious. We found out it was John and Arlinda's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. We all signed a card to them and took up a love offering that was presented to them on Thursday morning when John came in and shared with us the improvements made since last year and plans for the future.

Special needs for prayer were shared by many on Tuesday night and Jean Ackiss led in a very moving prayer for the needs.

Thursday night's sing-along was a special time when several women sang selections. We were almost spellbound when Kerrie Clayton on the flute and Clair Taylor on the piano "His Eye is on the Sparrow."

We were joined by the Rev. Harold Jones on Friday night and he brought a most inspiring message. Prior to his message, Teresa Grubbs sang an introduction of "Each One, Reach One." Harold spoke of the mission trips this summer and then used as his text John 3:7-8. He brought out how wind is so much needed in our lives. He compared the wind and the Holy Spirit, how we feel the presence of wind and how we feel the presence of God in our lives by the Holy Spirit. God is limited only by our faith; He's able to do what we believe He'll do. Harold said he felt we are living in the last days and asked us to covenant that God will send Heaven-sent revival to the church and that we will allow God to use us in

## Free Union Free Will Baptist Church at Sea Level Has A Gospel Celebration

by Dr. Pepper Worthington

The Free Union Free Will Baptist Church at Sea Level, NC, sponsored a gospel evening with the famous Weatherfords, featuring Lily Fern Weatherford, her son, Steve Weatherford, and the newly-married Joel Caldwell.

More than 150 people attended the celebration with music flowing down the aisles and with the feet. Instrumental in bringing this Oklahoma - based gospel group to North Carolina were Harry and Deanna Taylor of Sea Level. Lily Fern and Deanna's friendship has developed into an annual opportunity for fellowship, music, and celebration from the midwest to eastern North Carolina.

The Rev. Michael G. Warning, pastor of Free Union FWB Church, opened the evening with prayer. Mrs. Deanna Taylor introduced Lily Fern Weatherford, praised her singing, and announced the Living Legend Award given to Lily Fern for her contribution to Christian music. Then "Lily and the Boys" sang. And did they sing? You bet.

The songs often evoked eternity and the sense of home there with the Lord.

Steven Weatherford smiled as he said, "Indeed, it is a pleasure for the Weatherfords to be back at Sea Level. This place is about as far south and east as we get. We're from Oklahoma and to be here fishing the last couple of days has been a joy. If we got our bus on that ferry down at Cedar Island, I suppose we'd have a houseboat. We have a new young man with us this year, Joel Caldwell. He plays all kinds of instruments and comes to us from West Virginia. Joel grew up on the road and writes original music. Here is Joel to sing one of his own songs."

Joel came forward with his electric guitar, smooth voice, heartfelt lyrics and



Steve Weatherford, Lily Fern Weatherford, the Rev. Michael G. Warning, and Joel Caldwell participated in a gospel celebration at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Sea Level.

bringing this to be.

Teresa Ball led us in a vesper service at 9:30, using a puzzle, riddles, and a mystery to show us that God and His written Word are available to all. They are not a puzzle, riddle or mystery.

At 6:45, Saturday morning, Viola Best led in the devotions. Breakfast was at 7:00 and then time for goodbyes and departure for home. We were a tired, sleepy group, but a much more inspired group because of the messages,

songs and fellowship we all had enjoyed. Truly, we had been on top of the mountain.

Thank you to the staff at Cragmont for being such good hosts, for the good meals we enjoyed and for being so patient and helpful to us. Thanks to Donna and Teresa who spent much time to see that all preparations were made ahead of time and that it was an enjoyable week. We are really looking forward to August, 1999.



sang: *I've been struggling with the question why our Lord Jesus died. He was the One who walked on water. He was the One who raised the dead. Was He really gone forever? What would the day bring? Had hope all gone? Loss was turned to victory as Mary brought the news. Before sunrise the Son rose. He came out of the grave triumphantly.*

The time for Lily Fern Weatherford's solo came. She spoke of her years singing and her love of the Lord. Her son noted that she was considered by her peers to be one of the smoothest female gospel singers in the history of gospel music.

Lily Fern then spoke about her son, Steve Weatherford. She acknowledged how proud she was of her son, because he is a fine Christian young man. She believes God gave him to her to help her particularly at this time in her life. Steve Weatherford hugged his mother, pulled the microphone closer, and sang: *Yes, I was saved by amazing grace. I opened up my heart to heaven and my God came in. I believe in the old time way. I believe He'll take me home to stay.*

The trio then sang a song for Harry Taylor, "I'm On My Way." Steve Weatherford noted, "This is a song that goes back to our 1963 album. Harry Taylor found this one and now we're going to sing it for him."

After singing, the trio then turned together to celebrate the things that work together for God. They reminded listeners of the dark night when the stars are shining. As children of God, we must work together for the good. If we are troubled, we must remember God's Word that all things work together for those who love the Lord. Lily Fern then stepped forward to sing her famous song, "I'm Only Human."

Joel Caldwell then came forward to speak about Heaven. He noted that "Beulahland" was one of the most requested songs for gospel singers. Joel introduced his new bride, Jennifer, and spoke about his father who was an evangelist. The trio then sang "Beulahland."

The gospel celebration reached its climax when Deanna Taylor joined the

trio to sing. Lily Fern admitted, "The Taylors are our friends. They are wonderful people. If it were not for them, we would not be in this area. Our prayer tonight is that the Lord bless this church and bless the Taylors." They then sang: *Charming roses will bloom forever. Separations come no more. If we never meet our friends on this side of heaven, we'll meet you on the beautiful shore.*



Steve Weatherford, Deanna Taylor, and Lily Fern Weatherford sing together.

Deanna Taylor then presented Lily Fern a heart-shaped locket whose inscription read, "With All My Heart." Lily Fern wept and said, "Each time anybody does anything nice for me, it just reminds me how really precious the Lord is to give me such beautiful friends. When I wear this, I'll know you'll be praying for me." Deanna Taylor, Lily Fern, and the "boys" sang again. Lily Fern then sang her last solo, "He Washed My Eyes With Tears."



Mrs. Deanna Taylor hugs Lily Fern Weatherford after giving her a heart-shaped locket.

The trio concluded the exciting gospel celebration with the powerful lyrics of the Jordan Song.



Deanna Taylor (left) and Harry Taylor (center) hosted the Lily Fern Weatherford (right) gospel event.

Many came to the altar during the altar call. The gospel celebration was an evening of sweet release, faith-filled music, and reaffirming fellowship.

A meal followed in the Fellowship Hall of the Free Union Free Will Baptist Church. The evening became an event of music, memory, and mystery.

### ATTENTION: Convention Ministers, Delegates & Visitors

In order to prevent moisture buildup between the basketball floor and floor covering the temperature in College Hall has to be kept cooler than some person are accustomed to.

With that in mind, in attending the Convention, September 15-17, you are asked to bring a sweater or light jacket for the meetings in College Hall.



## People & Events

### 2ND ANNUAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENTION GOLF FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

#### LOCATION:

Southern Wayne Country Club  
Mount Olive, NC

#### TIME:

12:00 NOON

#### FORMAT:

4 – Man Superball  
(any handicap combination allowed)

#### PRIZES INCLUDE:

- Trophies for 1st & 2nd place, closest to the pin & long drive
- Gift certificates, shirts, hats, balls, towels, tees, and more.

#### PLUS:

- A chance to win a new set of golf clubs (3-PW) courtesy of Golf, Etc. of New Bern.

#### COST:

- \$35.00 per player (includes a mulligan)

Registration is limited to the first 72 players. You must be a minister or ministry director/assistant, or a member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Contact Buddy Sasser (252-638-9012) for more information.

Return registration & entry fee to: FWB Headquarters, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Make checks payable to: Convention of Original Free Will Baptist.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Central Woman's Auxiliary Convention

LaGrange First Free Will Baptist Church — LaGrange, NC

September, 26, 1998

Theme: Bloom Where You're Planted

Scripture: John 15:8 — *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

9:00 Registration

9:30 Hymn: *Blessed Assurance*

Devotion: Judy Moore

Welcome: Ruth Scott

Response: Jane Tripp

President's Greeting: Joan Little

Recognition Time

Business

Report from Denominational Ministries: The Rev. David Charles Hansley

10:30 Hymn: *He Touched Me*

Offering and Offertory Prayer: Carole Edwards

Youth Report: Judy Jones and Donna Tyson

10:50 Break

11:00 Special Music: Marian Kennedy and Nicki Banister

Memorial Service: Becky Clark

Business

11:50 Chorus: *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Introduction of Speaker: Freda Hargett

Message: Linda Weathersby

Hymn: *Jesus Calls Us*

Blessing and Benediction: Nan Fields

Song Leader: Leah McGlohon

### Western District Auxiliary Convention

Micro Free Will Baptist Church — Micro, NC

October 7, 1998

Theme: "CRAGMONT" — The People Place

Scripture: Psalm 121

9:00 Registration

9:30 Hymn – *To God Be the Glory*

Devotion – Psalm 26:7-8 – Teresa Speer

Welcome – Johnnie Warren

President's Remarks – Betty Lynch

9:50 Hymn – *Victory in Jesus*

Convention Offering

Denominational Ministries Report – The Rev. David C. Hansley

10:30 Memoir Service – Anges Corbitt

Business Session

Youth Report – Cathy Creech

11:00 Break

11:15 Hymn – *Jesus Is Lord of All*

News from Cragmont – The Rev. John Williams

Cragmont Offering

Special Music – Cragmont Choir

Convention Message – The Rev. John Williams

Benediction

12:30 Lunch

# Important Information Relative to FESTIVAL '98 WITH FRANKLIN GRAHAM

**Festival Dates:** September 27-29, 1998

**Venue:** Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC

**Evangelist:** Franklin Graham

**Program Director:** Tom Bledsoe

**Time:** Festival Service at 7:00 PM nightly

**Special Guests:**

Dennis Agajanian Band, September 27-29  
The Praise Band, September 27-29  
Ricky Skaggs & Band, September 27  
Crystal Lewis, September 28  
Reality Check, September 28 (Youth Night)  
Paul Overstreet, September 29  
Anointed, September 29

**Children's Service:** Kid's Gig 10:00-11:30 AM, Saturday, September 26, ...featuring Lesha Campbell, children's ventriloquist, and Mark Cedar, illusionist. This free rally is for children K-5th grade, and will take place at the Williams Arena: Minges Coliseum.

**Organization:** Festival '98 is a non-profit organization, operating under the direction of a 38 member General Committee with Dr. Edgar S. Douglas serving as chair.

**Seating/Offering:** All seats are free. Seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. No ticket is required. An offering for festival expenses will be received in each service, if needed.

**Parking:** Parking will be free of charge at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

**Accessible Area:** There will be a special entrance and seating available for people with mobility impairments.

**Love-In-Action:** The Love-In-Action Committee of Festival 98 offers individuals attending the meeting the opportunity to reach the hungry in the area by bringing non-perishable canned food to the services each night. There will be specially designated receptacles at all main entrances to the stadium for food deposits. Donations will be distributed by the Love-In-Action Committee to the North Carolina Food Bank.

**Signing for the Deaf:** There will be interpretation for the hearing impaired and a designated seating area.

## *Other Important Events:*

**Thursday, Sept. 10 — 7:30-9:00 PM**  
CLWC Class Five (small group training)  
TBA

**Saturday, Sept. 12 — 10:00-12:00 NOON**  
Prayer Walk and Rally  
Town Commons to Jarvis Memorial  
510 S. Washington Street, Greenville, NC

**Sunday, Sept. 13**  
Operation Andrew Sunday  
The Pastor emphasizes the principles of being an active Andrew. Materials: Operation Andrew Card  
All Churches

**Sunday, Sept. 13 — 3:00-4:30 PM**  
Counselors/Supervisors Procedure Class — TBA

**Sunday, Sept. 13 — 6:00-7:30 PM**  
Singles Rally with Reggie Dabbs  
Mendenhall: ECU, Greenville, NC

**Monday, Sept. 14 — 7:30-9:00 PM**  
Counselor/Supervisors Procedure Class — TBA

**Tuesday, Sept. 15 — 7:30-9:00 PM**  
Counselor/Supervisors Procedure Class — TBA

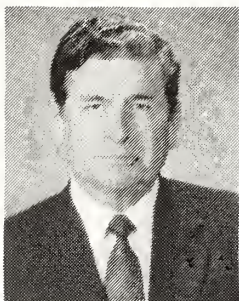
**Saturday, Sept. 26 — 10:00-11:30 AM**  
Kid's Gig with Ventriloquist, Lesha Campbell  
Minges Coliseum, Greenville, NC

**Saturday, Sept 26**  
Rehearsal/Dedication Service  
4:30 PM Usher Review  
6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Dedication Service  
8:30 PM Counselor/Supervisors Review  
8:30 PM Co-Labor Corp. Review  
Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, ECU, Greenville, NC

**Tuesday, Sept. 29 — 11:30 AM-12:45 PM**  
Matinee Service  
Speaker: Dr. Ross Rhodes  
BGEA Musicians  
Jarvis Memorial UMC  
510 S. Washington St., Greenville, NC

**For addition information contact: Festival Office**  
300 W 14th Street • Post Office Box 1614 • Greenville, NC 27835  
Office Phone: 252-413-0925 Fax: 252-413-0926





# THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens*



It takes a lifetime to build an estate: it is certainly worthwhile to take a few hours to plan how it will be used.

## Estate Planning

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

We each have an estate which will consist of our assets and liabilities at death. What disposition will be made of these assets depends upon whether we have a properly prepared estate plan. While living, we have the privilege of making this plan; however, if we do not, the government has already prepared one for us, and it may not be what we want.

Notwithstanding all the pain and trauma that comes to a family when one of its members dies, in the background are the "Big Brothers" in the county courthouse, the Department of Revenue in our home state and the Internal Revenue Service. It is not a matter of how rich or how poor we are; it is a question of who will make the necessary decisions — we or the government. For this and other reasons every person needs an estate plan.

### What is an Estate Plan?

We begin by making a written list of our assets and their market value, including not only property, money, stocks, and bonds but also life insurance, equity in retirement programs, pension plans and IRA's. Next, we list all of our debts and financial obligations. Our net estate is the value of our assets less what we owe.

Although we do not know the extent to which our resources may be needed during our lifetime, our next step in establishing an estate plan is to consider how we would want our assets to be used and distributed in event of our death. Never mind that circumstances will change — just keep in mind that we can revise our plan or formulate a new one at anytime we wish. The important consideration is to have a plan in place, "For death is the destiny of every man; and the living should take this to heart," (Ecclesiastes 7:2 NIV).

### Essential Objective of Our Estate Plan

We want our final expenses and any outstanding debts paid.

Depending upon the size of our estate, the government will assure that any federal estate taxes or state inheritance taxes due are paid before funds and assets are released for distribution to heirs. Farmers whose land has appreciated in value, people with stock investments, owners of large insurance policies and those who have tax deferred retirement plans are especially vulnerable to high death taxes. Through

good planning, however, these taxes can usually be substantially reduced or even eliminated. Although we do not want taxes to be the decisive factor in making our estate plan, it is important to know what they might be.

After payment of final expenses, debts and taxes, the remaining portion of our estate is available for our heirs and purposes we designate — that is, it must be emphasized, if we have a properly prepared estate plan.

The next step is to list family members and friends whom we would like to be our beneficiaries. Also, it is meaningful to include charitable and educational causes in our plan; after all, our estate represents the surplus God has given us over and above our lifetime needs.

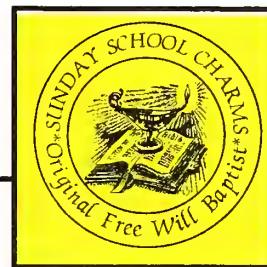
With the above information, we are ready to see a good estate planning attorney. For most people, too much is at stake to risk a self-drawn estate plan; a minor technical flaw can often cost more than the fees of the attorney and could even result in one's estate plan being invalidated.

The role of the attorney is not to determine who will be our beneficiaries but to put our wishes into legal form in order to assure that our estate plan is as incontestable as possible. A complete plan will include:

1. A Durable Power of Attorney — a person of our choosing who can manage our affairs in event of our disability. Immediately upon death, the Power of Attorney terminates.
2. A Living Will which advises family members and healthcare providers what medical procedures we want — or do not want — in event we are terminally ill and unable to communicate our wishes.
3. A Last Will and Testament — with an executor of our choice. The duty of our executor is to probate our will, which puts it on public record, and then to faithfully carry out its provisions, consistent with the laws of our state.
4. A Trust when advisable. One of the major advantages of a trust is privacy; a trust does not have to be probated. Another advantage is that it can be used to provide support for someone who needs assistance in managing his or her financial affairs. Also, under certain conditions, a trust can be an effective way to reduce or eliminate estate taxes.

The laws of estate planning are constantly changing, but the principles of a good plan never change. Our estate plan is a portrait of our values — it tells family, friends and the world who and what were most important to us.

1998 (Vol. 3, No. 11) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



## Memorandum to all Pastors and Sunday School Superintendents

The fall of the year is fast approaching and time for the annual Fall Leadership Banquet is drawing near. This year the Board is again having the Banquet in conjunction with the Convention. Ms. Marlene LaFever from David C. Cook Publishing Company will be our quest speaker. The Banquet will be held on Wednesday evening, September 16, 1998 at 5:45 PM in the combined President's Room and Hennessee Room in Murphy Center. This will allow us ample time to attend the Mission Rally which will be held at 7:30 PM. The cost of the meal will be \$10 payable before or at the Banquet. In order to have a fairly accurate count of people for the meal since space will be limited, it would be desirable to send your reservation ahead of time. We welcome all pastors and Sunday School Superintendents. To make your reservations, complete the form on the bottom of this article and return it to Mary Dudley by September 13, 1998.

Contributions and registration fees may be sent to:

OFWB Sunday School Board  
PO Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513  
or  
Mary Dudley  
1770 Will Cunningham Road  
Deep Run, NC 28525

We also ask that checks be made payable to: Sunday School Board. We solicit your prayers and concerns for the work of the Sunday School Board and thank you for all your support during this past year.

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Name:

Church:

Number attending the Banquet:

Money enclosed:

## Bullish on Sunday School

Marlene LeFever

I'm a Sunday school teacher. If you could hear me say these words, they would sound more like they were shouted from a megaphone, "I'M A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER!" I'm bullish about my church job. Let me take you into my elementary class to share some of what God is doing there.

### Daddy-Ache

Reach everyone I teach! That was my teaching goal. I was really, really prepared for Sunday school. But, when only one child showed up, my first reaction was, "What a shame! I prepared such a good lesson and now it will be wasted." My second reaction was more Christ-centered. I said I wanted to reach every ONE I teach, and here she was! Obviously God wanted Melissa to be my class.

I taught the whole lesson, and we had a great time. Melissa, an auditory learner, enjoyed talking, and in our one-to-one class she could talk all she wanted. Our lesson was on Jesus being with us when we hurt. After we studied the Bible story, we did the talking-moving activity in our lesson. She stretched out on a large piece of paper and I traced around her. Then we talked about the times when she had hurt and Jesus had helped her. She came up with typical eight-year-old things. "I fell and hurt my knee." We thanked God that He had been there with her, and put a Band-Aid on the knee of her life-size paper outline. "I hurt when I didn't understand how to do my homework and I got a bad grade." A Band-Aid went on the head of her drawing. Then she said something that taught me — her teacher. "When my daddy isn't home, I have a daddy-ache."

What a beautiful idea, I thought, as she placed a Band-Aid on her drawing's heart. In a spiritual sense, I'd like to feel a Daddy-ache, so that when I neglect my friendship with God, I feel the ache in my heart. When I'm too busy to pray or study the Bible at my adult level, that Daddy-ache will remind me to spend time with Him. May I teach so each youngster in my class comes to love Jesus and to feel Daddy-ache when he or she moves away from Him or does something to disappoint Him.

### Table-Top Egypt

Our small church has a space problem, so my class meets in the basement. Another Sunday our lesson was on Abram's journey from Ur, so the nine students took a basement journey. We were sitting on a wheelchair ramp, the first stop in our journey, when a visitor with a crying baby joined us. In our limited church space, it was the only place she could go to comfort her little fellow. She listened as I told the story of Abram building an altar. The baby stopped crying, but the woman didn't leave. We journeyed to other parts of the basement as our journey continued, and she came along.

We ended our Bible study in Egypt, a table where all the children climbed up and sat listening to how Abram lied to the Pharaoh. The

Cont. on page 34



### Gleanings from the 1975 Issues of *The Free Will Baptist*

Tribute was paid Thursday night, January 16, to a man who has devoted a half century to the Free Will Baptist ministry, most of it in Eastern North Carolina

Honored at a banquet in the auditorium of Mount Olive College was the Rev. James A. Evans, of Route 2, Seven Springs, now retired.

About 150 friends and fellow ministers attended the dinner sponsored by the Free Will Baptist Historical Society of which Mr. Evans is serving as the first president.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The North Carolina State Sunday School Convention, in cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Historical Society, will sponsor a dinner on May 3, 1975, honoring the Rev. L. E. Ballard. The place will be Mount Olive College Auditorium, and the cost is \$5 per person.

The Executive Committee of the Sunday School Convention has chosen this occasion to honor Mr. Ballard in view of his announced plans for retirement as field secretary of the convention, a post he has held for many years.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The Saint Mary's Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Route 3, Benson, paid tribute to the late Rev. Ranton Haywood Jackson, Sunday night, May 18. During the ceremonies the youth of the church unveiled a portrait of Mr. Jackson (their gift to the church) which was placed in the fellowship hall of the church.

### ***Bullish on Sunday School Cont....***

woman and sleeping baby were still with us (standing beside the table). Class ended and she asked me, "Was that story really in the Bible?" I assured her that it was. "Does this church tell Bible stories every Sunday?" I nodded and explained that we not only tell the stories, but we also help children and adults discover for themselves what that story has to teach them. "Well," said the woman, "do you mind if I come back again?"

That's what I want every one of my classes to be like — so exciting and involving that even a visitor with a crying baby will be captured and drawn in.

#### ***Tired Bones***

Heather whispered to me, "Did you think Jesus is angry at me because I prayed that the sermon would end? My bones were tired of sitting." Heather is very athletic, a beautiful youngster whose body is growing so fast that I can almost see her maturing. She's in Sunday school almost every Sunday, even though she's the only one in her family who comes. "Tell you what," I suggested. "Why not draw a picture of something in the sermon that is important to you? Drawing will take your mind off your bones! Then share what you have drawn with me. It will be our Sunday school after Sunday school." Her questions in class and after church are difficult and surprisingly insightful.

God called me to be a teacher. Twenty years from now, many of the children I now teach will be living for Jesus. I know God will honor my Sunday morning gift to Him and to them. Has God called you, too? Then come on! Shout with me! I'M A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER!

Marlene LeFever is Director of Ministry Relations for David C. Cook Church Ministries. She is a frequent speaker at Sunday school conventions, writers' conferences, and professional organizations. Marlene is editor of *Teacher Touch*, a quarterly letter of affirmation for Sunday school teachers, and author of over ten books, including *Learning Styles*, *Creative Teaching Methods*, and *Parties with a Purpose*. Used by permission.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Deborah Tannen, Ph.D. *You Just Don't Understand. Women and Men in Conversation.* New York: Ballantine, 1990.

## Introduction

Dr. Deborah Tannen is interested in gender differences in conversational styles. She points to different words and different worlds that permeate speech patterns of men and women. Her perception of the dichotomy of conversational styles leads here to develop theories of contrasting forms for men and women: status versus intimacy, asymmetry versus symmetry, report talk versus rapport talk, information versus overlapping.

## Status Versus Intimacy

According to Dr. Tannen, women seek intimacy in their conversation. They struggle for closeness, connection, and community. Thus women often talk about personal details in order to shift the relationship from "a stranger into someone with whom there is a personal connection" (37).

On the other hand, men seek status in their conversation. The sense of a hierarchy is more important than a sense of community. Dr. Tannen notes: "In a world of status, *independence* is key, because a primary means of establishing status is to tell others what to do, and taking orders is a marker of low status" (26). Status creates the pattern of battles or contests. Men talk to gain status; women talk to gain community.

## Asymmetry Verses Symmetry

What is asymmetry in conversations? When a speaker seeks a superior position and leaves the listener off balance, as if in a lower position, then the talk is asymmetrical. Men are more comfortable with dialogue that is asymmetrical because they are encouraged to compete, to rise in a hierarchy, to battle for prominence. Language style reflects self-respect, independence, and higher footing. To be independent, men often take an unequal footing in conversation. For example, a man may dominate a conversation at a meal, not balancing the dialogue but independently asserting superiority in the dialogue.

Women, however, often seek symmetrical footing which offers balance and interdependence. A woman may invite responses rather than dominate in a conversation. If a secret is shared to a woman, she may then share a secret back. She may not try to reveal superior knowledge and skill, but communicate an equal knowing.

## Report Talk Verses Rapport Talk

The purpose of conversation to men is often to provide information. Giving information may place the man in a superior position, framing him as one-up by his informed knowledge. His focus would be independence, self-reliance, self-respect. The motivation to dominate is higher than to motivation to help. The style of conversation is called report talk. Dr. Tannen describes report talk: "For most men, talk is primarily a means to preserve independence and negotiate and maintain status in a hierarchical social order. This is done by exhibiting knowledge and skill, and by holding center stage through verbal performance such as storytelling, joking, or imparting information. From childhood, men learn to use talking as a way to get and keep attention. So they are more comfortable speaking in larger groups made up of people they know less well — in the broadest sense, 'public speaking.' But even the most private situations can be approached like public speaking, more like giving a report than establishing rapport.

Women, on the other hand, seek to build rapport. They use language to get closer to another person, to interact and exchange emotions. For women, talking is a form of telling things "to show involvement, and listening is a way to show interest and caring" (81). Talk becomes "the glue that holds relationships together" (85). For women, "being close means being able to talk freely" (87).

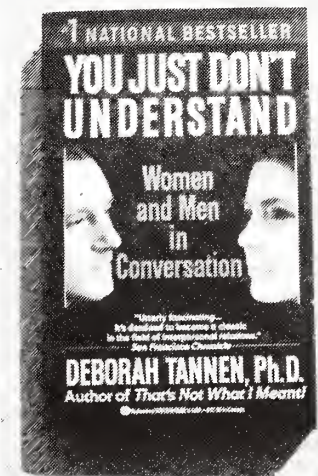
## Information Verses Overlapping

Men are often information speakers. As such, they do not like anyone else talking at the same time they are talking. They do not like to be interrupted. They enjoy center stage where they can convey their superior information.

Women, however, overlap in their conversations. They add to phrases, comment, even participate together in conversations. Ideas overlap so that oftentimes women seem to be talking at the same time. Connection is the key. Showing interest and demonstrating care become the aim of the conversation.

## Conclusion

Dr. Tannen seeks to clarify the different positions of men and women in conversational styles. "Understanding the other's ways of talking is a giant leap across the communication gap between women and men, and a giant step toward opening lines of communication," she concludes.



***You Just Don't Understand* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**

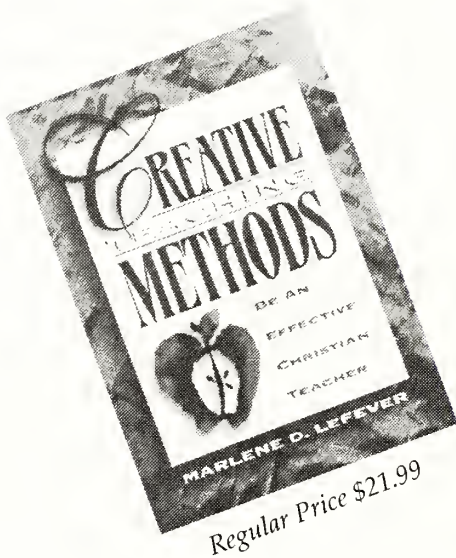


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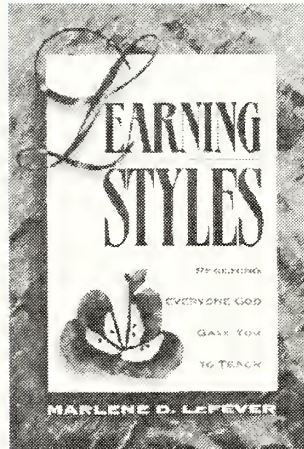
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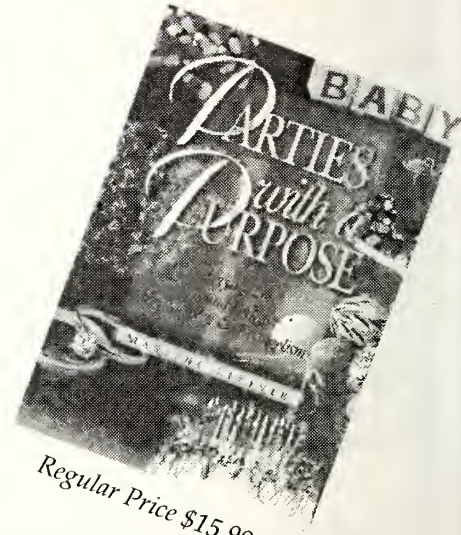
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# The Free Will Baptist

October 1998



## Are We Really Pulling Together?

I grew up on a "two-horse" farm in Wayne County, NC. Actually, we had two mules instead of horses, and the entire farming operation, the tending of forty acres of cleared land, was almost totally dependent on these two mules. It was after I left home to attend college that my daddy purchased our farm's first tractor, a small one-row job. I once asked Daddy why he didn't buy one while we (the children) were at home. His answer was straightforward: "I didn't need one then." In short, he had his children, and those two old mules named Ida and Pearl. The truth is that practically everyone was in the same "boat," meaning that almost all farmers depended on their mules. I remember only a few tractors in our neighborhood and they were owned by what we considered to be the more wealthy farmers.

Its been said that everyone should have had the opportunity to "plow a mule." I'm not a strong supporter of such a statement because I never got along too well with them and I'm not sure they aided in my early emotional development. On occasion, the two mules were "hitched up" together, to pull a wagon, a one-row disk harrow, or a two-horse plow, or some other farm equipment. It was then that the necessity of cooperative effort, or pulling together, became apparent. Both animals had to understand that "whoee" meant stop, "git-up" meant start, "gee" meant go to the right, and "haw" meant go to the left. If these verbal commands went unheeded, the reins were used, and sometimes nothing worked and the result was a "run away."

Over the years, the pages of *The Free Will Baptist* have carried numerous articles pertaining to the subject of unity, often citing the need for greater unity among Original Free Will Baptists. Our past reveals great accomplishments when we have united, when we have cooperatively pooled our energies and resources. When we have pulled against each other, or failed to cooperatively work together, we have limited our accomplishments and thus displeased our Lord.

The Survey of two years ago, which was an endeavor of Project Solution's Task Force, asked our churches to cite what they saw to be the most important needs of our church today. The first need was evangelism, or outreach; the second was the need for revival, prayer, spiritual vitality; the third was cohesiveness, unity, cooperation, and fellowship. To some degree we are addressing the need for greater outreach, or evangelism, for there seems to be an ingathering of souls in a number of our churches. Many major Christian leaders feel that a revival is going to sweep the land, and this is the

prayer of the church today.

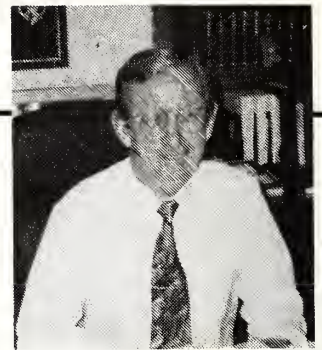
Can true revival come without unity, without truly "pulling together?"

The question God asked the Children of Israel in Amos 3:3 must be answered as we ponder the future of our denomination: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Believers of the Early Church knew the secret — they were of one accord. "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,..." (Acts 1:14); "And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord,..." (Acts 4:24); "And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake," (Acts 8:6). There are other references to their "togetherness." They laid aside their own agendas, having focused on the command of their Lord to "be His witnesses."

Through God's Grace and goodness, as a denomination, we have accomplished much, particularly in the area of Ministries. When we look at our numerical growth, however, we do not feel so proud, for we have remained basically at the same level. Is our stalemated growth due to our unwillingness to truly "pull together?" In seeking to fulfill our common goal as stated in the Preamble to our Convention's Constitution and Bylaws — "...to advance, promote, and increase the cause of Jesus Christ,..." there must be a uniting of all organizations and facets of our denomination, from the pew to the pulpit, from the Convention to the Conferences, including all ministries and auxiliary organizations.

Our Church Covenant, in the next to the last paragraph, states: "To this end we agree to cooperate in the promotion of denominational institutions and enterprises, the support of the work of the local church, and the evangelization of the world."

Are we really "pulling together" to accomplish this purpose? If so, we will lay aside our own petty differences and feelings of jealousy and envy and rally in support and prayer for the total work of our denomination. We have pledged our support to our ministries and programs. They are a part of our minutes and records. We have adopted them and they are worthy of our support. This includes the Convention Headquarters and the work of the newly-elected General Administrator, the Rev. David C. Hansley. Let's work with him, pray for him, and support this most important phase of our work. When we are in "one accord," we can fulfill our true purpose and calling.



C. H. Overman

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## NEXT MONTH

*October is  
Minister's  
Program  
Month*

*November is  
Children's Home  
Month*



## Christian Family Values

by Roy C. O'Donnell

"Family Values" is a phrase we hear often these days. Politicians use it in the hope that voters will regard them favorably at election time. Given the diversity of those who use the phrase, however, it is difficult to tell exactly what it is supposed to mean. Although the structure of the family has varied from time to time and place to place, the importance of the family is almost universally recognized. Mencius, a Chinese philosopher who lived between 372 and 289 BC, wrote: "The root of the kingdom is in the state. The root of the state is in the family. The root of the family is in the person of its head." And Carl Jung, a twentieth century Swiss psychologist, wrote: "The little world of childhood with its familiar surroundings is a model of the greater world. The more intensively the family has stamped its character upon the child, the more it will tend to feel and see its earlier miniature world again in the bigger world of adult life" (*The Theory of Psychoanalysis*, 1913).

The Christian concept of the family, of course, is based on the teachings of the Bible. In *Genesis*, after the account of God's creation of Eve, Adam says: "...This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (*Genesis* 2:23). And in the following Verse 24, we are told: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Although this model of one man and one

woman joined as husband and wife as the foundation of the family is the ideal recognized in the New Testament, it was not always observed in Old Testament times. The account of Noah mentions only one wife for him and one wife each for his three sons; but by the time of Abraham, some 1800 years before the Christian era, polygamy was not unusual and may have been the norm. Sarah had status as Abraham's principal wife, but Hagar was the mother of his first-born son. Rebekah evidently was the only wife Isaac had, but Jacob married both Leah and Rachel and had children by them and their maidservants. David had several wives, and Solomon must have established a world record—he had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:3).

Families resulting from these polygamous marriages have little similarity to the ideal Christian family. Multiple wives and their children were often in unhealthy competition with one another, vying as they must have for advantage and favors from the head of the family. After her son Isaac was born, Sarah's resentment of Hagar and her son Ishmael led Sarah to have them banished from Abraham's home. Leah seems to have graciously accepted the fact that her sister Rachel had first place in the affections of their husband Jacob, but his favored treatment of Rachel's sons led to intense jealousy and resentment on the part of their half-brothers. Joseph, in particular, incurred their hatred, with the result that they caused him to be sold into slavery in Egypt. Rivalry of this kind was common enough to require attention in Mosaic Law. Deuteronomy 21:15-17 requires that the son of a disfavored wife not be deprived of his rightful inheritance. David and his wife Michal, daughter of Saul, had a very unharmonious relationship, and David's sons by various wives caused all kinds of trouble. David's daughter Tamar was raped by her half brother Amnon, who in turn was murdered by Tamar's brother Absalom. Later Absalom raised an insurrection and tried to take over David's kingdom. His rebellion led to his early death, which brought David great grief. After David died, his sons Solomon and Adonijah were rivals for the throne, and Solomon, the successful contender, had his half brother killed. One can scarcely imagine what Solomon's family life must have



been like.

Family relations were important enough to merit inclusion in the Ten Commandments. The fifth commandment is: "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12). And the seventh commandment concerning the sanctity of marriage is: "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). Additional regulations required that anyone who either cursed or struck his parents be put to death (Exodus 21:15, 17). There was also an ordinance that allowed a father to have a stubborn and rebellious son put to death by stoning (Deuteronomy 21:18-21). These regulations probably were used by some fathers to justify tyranny over their families. Incestuous relationships were strictly forbidden, and Leviticus 18 gives specific instructions as to who was included in this taboo. Under certain conditions, divorce was allowed. Deuteronomy 24 allows a husband to divorce a wife in whom he has "found some uncleanness" by writing her a bill of divorcement, handing it to her, and sending her "out of his house."

Old Testament ideals placed a high value on children, and inability to have children was regarded as a great misfortune. Psalm 127 states that "...children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them:..." (vv. 3-5). The obligation of fathers to provide religious instruction to their children was clear. This admonition is given in Deuteronomy 4:9: "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons." And further in 11:18-19: "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children..."

The central importance of the family is reflected in New Testament metaphors of our relationship to God and

to one another. Jesus presented God as His Father and ours, and He declared that "...whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matthew 12:50). Paul in Galatians 6:10 referred to believers as "...them who are of the household of faith." He also likened the relationship between Christ and the Church to that of husband and wife (Ephesians 5:23). Jesus emphasized the sanctity of the marriage relationship. When the Pharisees asked him about the legality of divorce, he asked them what Moses commanded them. When they replied that Moses allowed bills of divorcement, Jesus

*Persons in a subordinate  
role may be in many  
ways superior to  
persons above them in  
an organizational  
structure.*

said: "...For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh.... What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:5-9). When his disciples asked for further comment, he said: "...Whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery" (vv. 11, 12).

Jesus's sense of family obligations is illustrated by his concern for his mother as he hung on the cross: "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciples standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home" (John 19:26-27).

Specific teaching about Christian family relationships is found in the writings of Paul, especially in

Ephesians 5. A passage which is quite unpopular in our time begins in Verse 22: "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." Paul goes on to say: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything" (vv. 23-24). Those who would take that as authority to dominate their wives, as well as those who criticize Paul so sharply for that statement apparently overlook what follows: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (v. 25). "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies..." (v. 28). In Chapter 6, Paul continues with instructions concerning relationships of parents and children: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (vv. 1-4).

Clearly, Paul presented the relationship of husband and wife as one of mutual responsibility. He sees the husband in the role of head of the family, and any organization, including a family, has to have a head to be complete. Persons in a subordinate role may be in many ways superior to persons above them in an organizational structure. For example, an employee may be more knowledgeable or skillful than his employer. Likewise, a student may be more beautiful, more gracious, and even more intelligent than her teacher. But regardless of natural endowments, the roles are not reversible. Confusion about the distinction between the role a person plays and the inherent worth of that person is reflected in the strong negative reaction reflected recently in news media concerning the Southern Baptist position on the wife's role in the family. The wife is to recognize her husband's role, not because she is in any way inferior to him (she may in fact be his superior in many ways), but because roles have to be defined and rec-



ognized in any organized entity. The husband is to love his wife as he loves himself. Just as a sane man will not knowingly do anything to harm himself, he will do nothing to harm his wife. Likewise, parents and children have different roles and mutual responsibilities. The parents, being older and more experienced in life, are expected to provide protection and guidance to the children, without being overbearing, and the children are expected to treat their parents with respect. If a better model of family structure than Paul's can be found, I am in favor of implementing it. But until it can be demonstrated that there is a better one, I don't think we should summarily discard his.

In recent years various pressures have combined to weaken the structure of the traditional Christian family. It seems ironic that technological advancement, despite all its benefits, has contributed to a weakening of family unity. Continuing advances in technology have brought about many changes, some beneficial and some harmful. Motion pictures and television, for example, have had a significant negative impact on traditional family life. One major result of the shift from an agrarian society to one based on an industrial economy is the trend toward increased emphasis on the individual. In an agrarian society, the well-being of the individual depended, to a great extent, on the well-being of the entire family. For example, the family farm was a group enterprise; when it prospered, the whole family shared the benefits. In an industrial society, by contrast, each worker in the family may have a different employer, and one may prosper more than the other. The extent to which prosperous individuals choose to share with other family members may vary. Whatever value an emphasis on the individual may have, there can be no doubt that family unity is weakened when the place of the individual is elevated above that of the family.

Another source of pressure against traditional family structure is the increased level of economic expectations. With the coming of manufacturing industries, in many families the husband,

and sometimes the wife, received a weekly paycheck from employment away from home. Then during World War II many women took employment in defense industries. When the war ended, some gladly returned to the traditional responsibilities of homemaking; but others, having experienced a measure of economic independence, chose to remain on jobs outside the home. Remembering the Depression years, many husbands and wives agreed that both would need to be employed in order to afford their own home, with modern appliances, and an automobile or two. And the widespread distribution of labor-saving devices, such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc., along with the easy availability of foods ready to heat and eat,

*In an agrarian society, the well-being of the individual depended, to a great extent, on the well-being of the entire family.*

made it seem less necessary for women to stay at home doing housework.

Related to both of these sources of pressure against the family is the radical wing of the women's liberation movement. Spousal abuse has always been a reality, but in the traditional family at its best, wives were protected and adequately provided for by their husbands. At the same time, women who for one reason or another remained unmarried often felt excluded from the full benefit of our society. Since the expectation of society was that women would marry and have children, various laws and customs that failed to assure the rights of single women came into being. The legitimate desire to be fully participating members of society, regardless of marital status, led to the formation of organizations dedicated to securing women's rights. Some of these had a constructive agenda, but it is my impression that some were not content to stop with the demand for equal rights. They seem to have had a need

to make women who find satisfaction in traditional roles as wife and mother feel inadequate. While I am firmly convinced that women, married or single, deserve equal legal status with men, and that women who do the same work as men should be paid on the same scale as men, I think it is obvious that the agenda of the radical women's liberation groups is detrimental to the well-being of the family. Some of their leaders evidently had unhappy home lives when they were growing up, and they have no expectations or intentions of establishing their own families. Consequently, some of them are not just uninterested in traditional family values; they seem actually to be antagonistic to them.

The source of pressure mentioned above, combined with others, have undoubtedly resulted in deterioration of the family in our time. Many couples choose to live together, and some to have children, without benefit of marriage. Many others who do marry write their own wedding vows, omitting phrases they find offensive, such as "honor and obey." Others still use traditional wedding vows, but in their minds the phrase "til death us do part" apparently registers as "so long as it is mutually convenient." Some agree before marriage that they will not have any children, and many who have children place their own wishes above the well-being of the children when the going gets rough. The high rate of divorce, along with the high rate of illegitimate births, means that millions of children grow up without the love and support of two parents. And many who do have both parents grow up without benefit of moral and religious instruction at home.

If, as Mencius said, "the root of the state is in the family," I think we have to conclude that the state is now at risk. For the sake of ourselves and our society, I think we need to take another look at the values of the traditional Christian family. We cannot turn back the clock to progress, and I do not advocate depriving anyone of their legitimate rights. But I don't think we have to do that in order to take seriously our responsibility as members of Christian families.



# In The Year 2000

Harvest Love

Harvest Churches

Harvest Friends

Harvest Christians

Harvest Family

by Elaine Swinson

Splashing through puddles, holding brightly colored umbrellas and giggling like children, the Free Will Baptists of the Albemarle Conference ran through the rain to fill their cups with God's blessings. Upon entering Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Plymouth, NC, they parked their dripping umbrellas in a neat little row against the wall, took out tissues



*The Rev. David Charles Hansley, Evangelist for the Crusade*

and wiped their rain dotted glasses, and patted their shoes dry before the "hugging" and "hand shaking" began. Harvest 2000 had officially been christened.

"Bonnie" whipped through, leaving her signature scrawled on the beaches and among the trees and crushing our hopes of Harvest 2000 being held under the "big top." Gloom, doom, and despair threatened to gobble us up when we remembered all the exciting plans we had made and all for naught. The only remedy anyone could conjure up meant rescheduling for a future date when the weather conditions had improved. However, Preacher Everette Harper declared

that he had a better answer, and proceeded to invite the whole "kit and caboodle" to Union Chapel. His fellow ministers on the committee voted with a thankful "thumbs up" and the Crusade for Harvest 2000 became a reality.

Webster defines a crusade as an enterprise undertaken with zeal and enthusiasm. There is certainly no doubt that this definition was realized 100% by those attending the services at Union Chapel. The angel band in Heaven must have joined in the chorus when the Albemarle Free Will Baptists lifted their voices in praise to the Lord. Watery smiles on the faces of those present were seen through tears of joy, their hearts filled and running over from the blessings of song and sermon. Our Lord Jesus Christ delivered a series of messages that stirred our



*Free Will Baptists of the Albemarle Conference happily await the beginning of the final service on Friday evening.*

hearts and souls through the Rev. David Charles Hansley, who became His vessel for the crusade.

Reflections of greater things to come in the year 2000 were heard in the testimonies and songs of the singers who came each night, not to entertain but to encourage and excite us and give us strength to harvest the lost souls who we encounter every day in

our homes, communities, and work places. I was especially touched when a duet, consisting of a man and his wife, told of their prayers to God for a way they could serve their Lord together to strengthen both their marriage and their relationship with Him. There is no doubt that even if they never receive great acclaim for their singing here on earth, they will reap great rewards in Heaven for their service to



*The Singing Laymen were part of the special music during the final service.*

Cont. next page



# In The Year 2000

God and their example to the world.

A father and his young son calmly took their places on the stage and astounded the audience when they began to sing with all their strength for the glory of God. Bonded together in the name of the Lord, they portrayed the kind of family Preacher David Charles spoke about in his sermon that night. The close relationship they share is a treasure that cannot be bought for any amount of money and will never rust, or be corrupt as earthly possessions so often are.

The audience clapped their hands, patted their feet, raised their hands to God, and sang along when they knew the words of the songs and hummed when they didn't. "Amens" rang out during the sermons each evening without a single eyebrow being raised in puzzlement or admonishment. Ministers freely put their arms around each other in love and fellowship, holding on an extra bit longer, making me know it was a sincere gesture, not an act of obligation. Husbands and wives joined hands and walked to the altar together to rededicate their lives to Jesus. God was surely in the midst of our congregation.

Now what? The rest of the story depends on every person that attended this Harvest 2000 Crusade. We have all the tools and raw materials necessary to help build God's kingdom — feet to carry us to our neighbor's home; hands to knock on their door; lips to tell them the wonderful news that God loves them too; ears to hear their response; minds to think; the fullness of spirit we received during the Harvest 2000 Crusade; and best of all we have the support of our Lord. If you aren't blessed with the ability to use these tools, you can pray. There is something for everyone to do. If you don't believe it, ask God.

What are *you* waiting for? Our building permit has been approved. The harvest is ripe and the barns are empty — God is calling you today!

## DEPEND

*by the Rev. Rashie Kennedy*

The night of April 26, 1998, the word "depend" kept me awake for about two hours. I could not sleep because of thinking and meditating on this word. I got up and began writing. The 26th was on Sunday. I had been to church at Folkstone Free Will Baptist Church. On Sunday night, Kathleen Kennedy, two daughters, Linda and Shirley and granddaughter took us to Verona Free Will Baptist Church to a Baptismal service. My wife's grandson was being baptized.

I had heard the word "Independence" spoken of during that Sunday and Sunday night. It occurred to me that that word was very inappropriate for a Christian. To me, the word "Dependence" is more appropriate. Remove the "in" from independence and you have dependence.

Another word that carries the meaning is "rely." Rely means to trust or depend. I could not find the word "depend" in the Bible concordance, but I found the word "rely" in 2 Chronicles 13:18 and also in 2 Chronicles 16:7, 8.

The words "trust" and "confidence" stand out as the true meaning as they pertain to Christians' attitude toward one another. Let me illustrate the word trust. It is like sitting down in a chair. We put complete trust in the chair, that it will hold us up. We surrender our complete weight upon the chair. When we lie down at night, we trust the bed to hold us up. In other words, we are completely confident the bed will hold us up and we will have a good night's rest.

The word "trust" is the same as the word "faith." Trust or faith runs through the Bible like a thread runs through a garment. It is interwoven so that all parts are held together. We have faith in the Bible, that it is God's inspired Word — He is the great I Am. We have faith in God's only Son Jesus Christ and our Saviour. We have faith in the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts as Christians. We believe all the writers of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the very Words of God. Surely we trust this to be an actual fact we can depend upon! Yes! Yes! Yes!

With humankind this dependence starts with conception. The unborn child is completely dependent upon the mother. As goes the mother, so goes the unborn child. As goes the mother and dad, so goes the child after it is born. The parents then must not depend on the physician or those who assisted in the delivery. They must depend on God who created them. Read 2 Chronicles 16:12–14. Read the whole chapter. Asa was king. Verse 12 says that Asa, in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, was diseased in his feet and the disease was exceedingly great; yet, Asa sought not the Lord but the physician, and Asa slept with his fathers and died in the forty-first year of his reign. This is saying that Asa died early because he did not depend upon the Lord.

The Apostle Paul said it in this way; "For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Read the whole book of Romans, and especially Chapters 6–8.

We must depend upon the Lord or die in sin, with life cut short like Asa. Not only with life cut short, but we must suffer the awful penalty and consequences that result from sinning in this life. The only remedy is Christ received into the heart (John 3:16), and for the Christian to stay in fellowship. First John 1:9 is the remedy. Galatians 5:22 is the fruit of this fellowship. We can depend on this kind of fellowship to keep us saved and on track with God and with our fellow Christians.

The question to each one of us is, "Can we depend on God?" Certainly we cannot be independent of God. And we should not be independent of each other. So let us take the "in" off and depend upon God and each other.





## *It was indeed...* **A VERY SPECIAL SERVICE**

The "Service of Praise and Worship," commemorating the one hundred twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Free Will Baptist Press, is now history. Approximately 350 Free Will Baptists gathered in College Hall, on the campus of Mount Olive College, the evening of September 15, 1998, to worship and celebrate this occasion, the anniversary of the oldest ministry of our denomination. The management, employees, and Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press express their heartfelt appreciation to all those who so willingly participated in the worship program and to all those who attended.

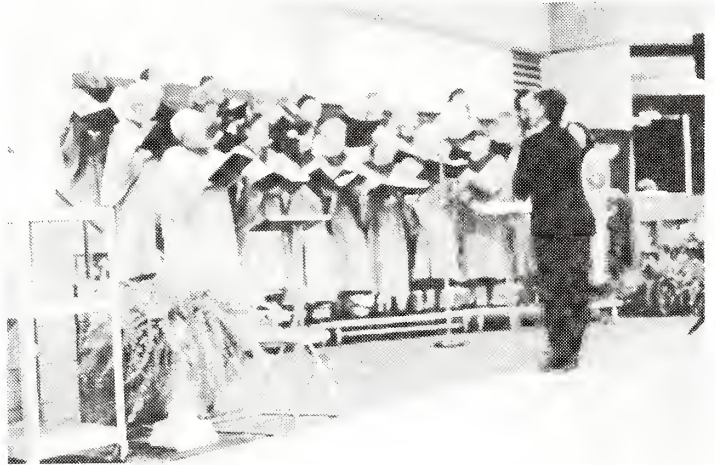
It was a very special service that paid homage to the past and present employees, board members, managers, and editors. As with any service of praise, music played an important part as rendered by Free Spirit of Mount Olive College, the choir of First Free Will Baptist Church of Wilson, NC, and Mrs. Delores Gray whose solo, "Holy Ground," seemed to describe the worshipful mood of the celebration. Prior to the beginning of the service, the Mount Olive Brass Quintet set the tone for the service, with its rendition of several hymns with a distinctive style.

A highlight of the service was the special presentations. A specially-designed plaque was presented by the Press to Union Grove Church, Wayne County, site of the meeting of the General Conference, on November 5, 1873, when the decision was made to begin the publication of "an official church organ," which became known as *The Free Will Baptist*. A plaque was also presented to the Press by the North Carolina Free Will Baptist Ministerial Association in recognition of its 125 years of service to the cause of Christ and to Original Free Will Baptists. Mr. Cliff Gray, on behalf of the Press, presented a plaque to Free Union Church, Sea

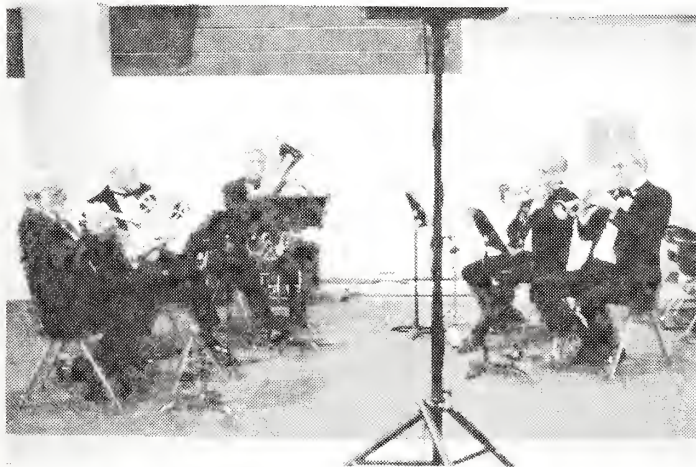
Level, in appreciation for its donation of \$15,000.00 which allowed for the purchase of a new printing press.

All those present were privileged to hear Ms. Marlene LeFever as she eloquently and dramatically presented the challenge of reaching each generation with the good news about Jesus Christ, as she portrayed "Generation Next" (today's teenagers), "Generation X" (today's young adults), the "Baby Boomers" (those born after World War II from 1947-1961), and the "Silent Generation" (retirement aged adults).

Again, we thank all those who were a part of this very special celebration!



*The choir of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, added its spiritual touch to the service.*



*Pictured is the Mount Olive Brass Quintet, with Dr. Byrd, President of Mount Olive College (center) playing the "tuba."*



*Following the service, a reception was held in Murphy Regional Center, at which time Ms. LeFever (right) autographed her books for those who purchased them. Pictured with her is Lexine Davis, Bookstore Coordinator.*



## Don't Mess With Christians

The Devil came to me one night,  
He said "Your God is weak."  
I didn't listen to his talk,  
For the power of God I seek.

The Lord, He said, "Don't worry.  
Just trust with all your might.  
You will not lose this battle,  
For I'm with you tonight."

We punched, we kicked, we wrestled,  
With God we could not fail.  
We had the power of the Lord,  
And sent Satan back to Hell.

So Satan, don't mess with Christians,  
For the power of God's too strong.  
If you think you can beat us,  
Then you are truly wrong.

by Edwin Godley.

Edwin Godley is a 13 year-old teen-ager and is  
a member of Sidney Free Will Baptist Church.



1873 - 1998

*Celebrating  
125 Years of Service  
to Original  
Free Will Baptists*

## Camp Vandemere Our Family Enrichment Center

### Tomorrow at Camp Vandemere

*submitted by Ray and Ginny Conner*

Our youngest son Marcus is playing flag football this year. This is his first experience in this particular sporting activity. His first game is quickly approaching and he's very excited. He's still too young to comprehend what we mean that his football game is the day after tomorrow, so he asks "how many times do I sleep?" This is his way of calculating the number of days until the big day arrives.

We have many things to be thankful for when it comes to the ministry of Camp Vandemere. We look back at the young people who have received Christ into their hearts or have surrendered to God's call on their lives. We revel in the knowledge of knowing that Christ was made more real to the campers after their stay at camp. My question, however, is "how many times do I sleep?" What do we have envisioned for the "big day" of Camp Vandemere? How can the effectiveness and functionality of the camp be expanded so that it not only ministers to the spiritual needs of our youth, but how can single adults, married couples, senior adults, and the handicapped benefit from its use?

We believe that first, we have to trust God for great things. We limit our God and ourselves when we set goals that are too low. When we are willing to trust God and creatively act upon our faith in Him, great accomplishments are sure to follow.

Camp Vandemere offers great potential for a marriage enrichment center. As the culture constantly assaults our homes, Camp Vandemere becomes a welcomed haven for churches to plan enrichment weekends for their married couples. As our pastors are so keenly aware, without healthy homes there will not be healthy churches.

Camp Vandemere can be used as an excellent location for evangelistic weekends. Why not consider planning a retreat by inviting unsaved friends and loved ones to a weekend filled with caring, food, fellowship, and the sharing of the gospel?

"How many times do I sleep?" As God's people we want to encourage you to awake with a mighty vision for Camp Vandemere. Let's utilize the great potential for doing good through this ministry and let's expect great things!

### *Camp Vandemere Prayer Concerns*

- The Board of Directors has decided to hire a full-time Camp Manager. We are praying not only for the right person, but for God's blessings upon this step of faith.
- A piece of property adjacent to the camp has become available at a cost of \$35,000. Are you the vessel through which God has chosen to work whereby this property may be obtained?

# Layman's League

## Scenes from the Eastern Conference Layman's League Meeting at Camp Vandemere, August 17, 1998.



Eastern Conference Layman's League President, Steve Garner, pictured left.



Enjoying a meal.

From left to right: Robert Tripp, Outgoing Treasurer; Steve Garner, President; and Herman Tyson, New Treasurer.



The Rev. Ray Conners fills his place on the Program.



State Layman's League President, Elmer Harrell, pictured above.

### *Dates to Remember...*

- |             |                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 1   | Combined Meeting of Promotional Committee and Executive Board of the Layman's League.<br>VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC<br>7:30 PM |
| November 6  | State Layman's League Meeting                                                                                                   |
| November 16 | Eastern Conference Layman's League Meeting                                                                                      |



## MINISTER'S PROGRAM

### *October is Minister's Program Month*

and

### *Clergy Appreciation Day is October 11, 1998*

This is a great time to honor your pastor!

#### *Here are some ideas for you*

- \* Set up a leafless tree and have the members decorate it with small gifts, or envelopes with gift certificates or money.
- \* Receive a love offering.
- \* Make banners of appreciation and display them throughout the church.
- \* Invite a guest speaker and give your pastor the day off.
- \* Plan a banquet in his honor
- \* Present your pastor with a card signed by as many of the members as possible along with a gift certificate for shoes, a suit or a restaurant he enjoys.

This information is brought to you by the  
Free Will Baptist Minister's Program

### *New Enrollment*

The Rev. Franklin Brinson passed away last spring. A partial enrollment has begun for the Minister's Widows Fund. If you are an ordained minister and did not receive a notice please contact the Convention Office and check to make certain that your address is properly listed.

### *Why the Minister's Program?*

#### **History**

When the Convention brought the Minister's Program into existence during the first part of this century it was given a mandate to help provide for the needy, retired, and infirmed minister. This came along about the time the depression was upon us and that period of our history made us acutely aware that there was no such thing as a safety net for individuals who lacked the resources to provide for themselves.

It is no surprise that minister's found themselves in this category and even when the Social Security Act came into being ministers were specifically excluded from the benefits provided under this program. It was not until the 1950s that ministers were even allowed to participate in this government program.

At the beginning the program sought to provide a stipend for the retired ministers in the Convention. This was not unlike the Social Security Program which instituted a pay as you go program whereby the present working generation actually provides the benefits for those who are presently retired. The principle difference is that unlike the federal government the Convention does not have the authority to mandate contributions, and due to the lack of voluntary contributions we were unable to provide a meaningful benefit for the many deserving ministers who needed assistance. This caused us to reexamine our effectiveness and how best to provide for the ministers in the Convention.

#### **The Future**

At this point it is important to note that providing for a pastor should not be the task of a central board or governing authority. The responsibility of providing for the needs of the pastor rests squarely upon the shoulders of the local church and the Minister's Program has evolved into an extension of the local church into helping them provide what they cannot provide themselves. Providing a top-flight retirement program, a partnership in health benefits, compensation and tax planning are just a part of what we do.

In addition to this we also provide hardship grants for ministers in need, and through your

## MINISTER'S PROGRAM

generosity each Christmas ministers 70 and over receive a \$100 gift from you, the churches of the Convention. Also we have supplemented the retirement benefits of all ministers who retired under the old program, many of whom have outlived their benefits but still receive a monthly gift, again this is because of your faithful support.

We have tried to educate the church to the unique needs of their pastors so that together they can work out a plan that will be fair and equitable to all those concerned. When a church does not provide adequate compensation how can they expect first rate leadership? We have all heard it said that "God will provide for them" and this is true, but what we sometimes fail to see is that the local church is the conduit of this provision. **If the local church does not provide for their pastor, then who will?**

We have poured money into the building and physical facilities, yet we fail to achieve the growth that will assure a healthy church tomorrow. It is time to raise the standard because there is no substitute for quality leadership. When God calls the best and brightest among us to the ministry, we must show that individual that the pastorate is a viable choice of answering that call.

The Minister's Program sounded an alarm in the 1980s that the average age of our ministers was increasing due to the lack of younger men entering the pastoral ministry. This trend has yet to be reversed and we are rapidly approaching the next millennium. This Program has evolved over the years as an educational resource helping churches and ministers as they plan together and we will continue to serve the Convention in this capacity. Your support, through prayers and gifts, to this ministry will allow us to help you and those who God has called to serve.

October is Minister's Program Month and we would like to ask you to receive a special offering for this program and/or include this program in your annual budget. Please consider the following challenge for your church:

| Membership    | Gift Challenge |
|---------------|----------------|
| Less than 100 | \$150.00       |
| 100-149       | \$300.00       |
| 150-199       | \$400.00       |
| Over 200      | \$500.00       |

For more information please contact:  
The Free Will Baptist Minister's Program  
Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513

## HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

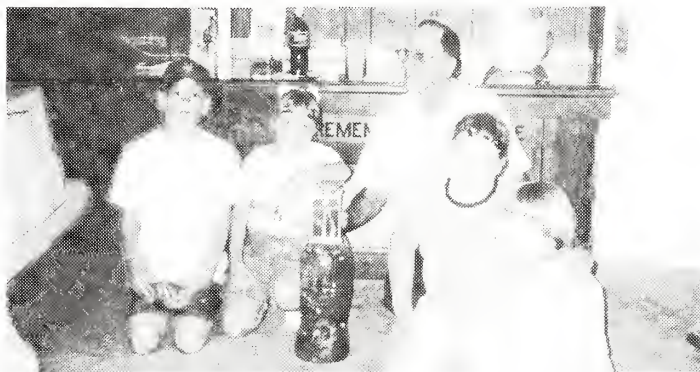
### New Missionaries

We welcome the Rev. and Mrs. Keith Pelletier to our Home Missions and Evangelism Team. They will begin their work of planting a new Original Free Will Baptist Mission/Church, Sunrise Landing, located between Harbinger and Point Harbor, North Carolina in Currituck County, on November 1, 1998. Brother Pelletier and his wife have served Mt. Tabor Original Free Will Baptist Church in the Albemarle Conference since 1994. May we now support them in this endeavor to *Expand His Kingdom*.



The Rev. and Mrs. Keith Pelletier

### VBS Raises Money



Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, North Carolina, collected \$365.00 during Vacation Bible School for Home Missions and Evangelism. Pictured left to right: Andrew Dorman, Lauren Byrd, Mr. Carl Smith, Larayne McLamb, and Ashley Nelson.

### St. Cloud, Florida Update

Mr. Don Beltz is leading the Bible study at St. Cloud Original Free Will Baptist Mission/Church (formerly Old Canoe Creek OFWB Mission/Church). Don has applied for license to the Eastern Conference Examining Board. Let us continue to pray for people, that they may be "Touched For A Lifetime" through Jesus Christ the Lord!





## Snow Hound

It is time to be thinking about your ski retreat if you haven't already done so. Snow Hound is a great opportunity for your church to sponsor a ski retreat for your youth or for your whole church. Our partnership with Wolf Laurel Ski Resort means you get savings on lift tickets, lessons, and rentals. Our skiing package offers you flexibility and fun! You can ski during the week, weekends and holidays. Once your group decides on a reservation we immediately go to work seeing to it that everything is ready and in place when you get here. If your church is interested in a winter retreat with skiing as part of the activity then you should give us a call. Contact Arlinda Williams at: Office 828-669-7677, Home 828-669-5224.

*The following article was written by Eric Hill from the Walstonburg area.*

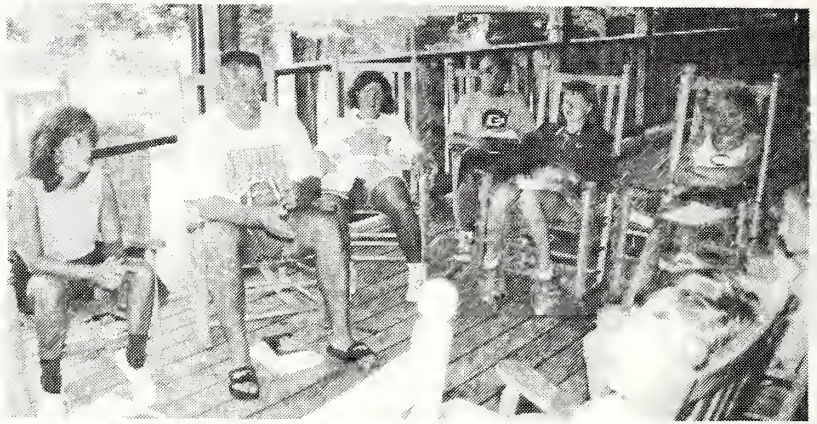
*"Have you ever been to a summer camp? Cragmont is a Christian summer camp. My one-week visit to Cragmont was exciting. At Cragmont there were fun activities. My favorite was the trip to Carowinds because I get to go there only once a year. My second favorite activity was the talent show. I got to play my flute. Then we got to climb the mountain. I like the mountain climb because at the top there is a great view.*

*It is also exciting to meet new people. The person I will never forget is Julie because she was so wild; also because you get to meet new people from other places in North Carolina.*

*At Cragmont, it is fun to learn about God. Learning about God has made me a better person. The adults help me understand more about my religion. I am also able to learn more about things that I don't learn in church. All these things and more made my week exciting at Cragmont. If you want to go to a summer camp, I think you should try Cragmont."*

Cragmont has different personalities during the season. During the fall and spring, Cragmont serves our people as a retreat. It is a place for our church groups to come and worship and fellowship under a different and powerful setting: the quiet mountains of western North Carolina.

During the summer our focus turns to the youth of our church. The Rev. Raymond T. Sasser stated that the purpose of Cragmont can be stated in three words; "Instruction, Inspiration, and Recreation." Eric Hill must have agreed with the late Mr. Sasser.





# Goodbye Charley! Hello Bonnie

## A Run for the Border

by the Rev. Chris Singleton

In mid August I had the privilege of going on my third short-term mission trip. After two trips to the Philippines, I was now off to take part in the Foreign Missions Board's first youth camp in Mexico. I had already become familiar with the routine of the Philippines trip as well as the people and their culture, but I was full of questions and anxiety about doing a youth camp in the middle of a desert somewhere in Mexico. One thing I was sure of — a short-term mission trip with Harold and Sandra Jones is always full of ad-



*Campfire Service*

venture. There is adventure as each participant broadens his or her spiritual, cultural, and physical horizons.

There were ten of us that left eastern North Carolina for Texas where we met Mrs. Lucy Timmons, a retired missionary. All but one member of the group had been involved in short-term teams before, but this trip was to be a different venture for all of us as the youth camp was to take place in Morelos, a desert village over 100 miles from the closest town.

Morelos was established by the government in an attempt to get people to settle in the area. Most of the fifteen to twenty families that moved there were involved with the ranches that are spread throughout the valley. A Free Will Baptist Church was established there and it seemed as if Morelos was going to bloom in the desert. All flow-

ers fade and Morelos began to wilt after a two-year drought. Today the houses are empty most of the time. Two families chose to stick it out and the congregation still meets in the little church, but basically Morelos is a ghost town.

Our trip to Morelos took us about eighty miles down a highway that seemed to lead nowhere. There were very few houses along the way and we met very little traffic. We knew we were in for a real adventure when we reached a military checkpoint and were ordered out of the van. Soldiers surrounded the van, weapons at hand. They asked a few questions and then decided to let us through without searching the luggage. That was a relief. We couldn't imagine going through all those suitcases in the middle of the desert.

Next, we turned onto a dirt road that wound through acres of ranch land, desert, mountains, and even a dry river bed about ten feet deep. After almost forty miles we at last reached Morelos, our home in the desert for the next five days. There we were joined by over one hundred Mexicans of all ages from different churches. Camp was underway!

What a camp it was! We did most of the things usually associated with youth camp. We had Bible classes and crafts in the mornings. Afternoon recreation consisted of softball, volleyball, and horseback riding. The evenings were filled with a most enjoyable and moving worship service followed by a brief campfire service. Between these events we enjoyed wonderful fellowship with the Mexican people and feasted on delicious Mexican food prepared by a group of dedicated volunteers.

Communication was an adventure of its own. Among the entire group of about one hun-

dred and twenty people, only four could speak both languages. It is amazing how well you can express yourself by pointing, gestures, and facial expressions. Love, joy, and happiness can be communicated in a number of ways.

On Wednesday we switched things around and went mountain climbing. That was some adventure! We left about 9:30 AM for what was to be a three-hour hike. By the time we wound our way to the top, stopping to rest, waiting for one another to catch up, and helping one another along the way, it had become a six-hour trek. We saw lots of rocks, cacti of all sorts, rocks, flowering plants, rocks, a deer, rocks, and even a rattlesnake. The view from the top was spectacular, it made the struggle worth the effort.

Did I mention the rain?... Here we were in the desert ready for youth camp and it rained every day! Never mind that it hadn't rained for several months, the rains came. Some days there were light showers, on others there were real gully-washers. We learned on the van radio that we were catching the remnants of Hurricane Charley that had come across the Gulf and was dumping rain throughout the area. (We also heard that Hurricane Bonnie was expected to hit North Carolina sometime Tuesday night.) While the rain did dampen things a bit, the Lord enabled us to go on with our services and main activities pretty much on schedule.

The clouds probably blocked some spectacular views of the sun rising and



*Teaching the teens and adults in morning Bible study.*





*We made it to the tops! (Sandra took picture)*

setting each day, but they also made the mountains look different about every time you looked at them. One morning the clouds were dark except for one hole that allowed the sun to cast brilliant rays upon the mountains. The rays were slightly filtered by light clouds adding even more beauty to an already gorgeous scene. I sat down for my devotional reading and opened my Bible to the bookmark and started reading Psalm 19; "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Wow! I thanked God for such a spectacular visual aid.

There is so much that I could say about our experience at camp. Suffice it to say that we all had a wonderful time. All of us felt that we had received so much more than we had given. Camp ended with a very emotional service on Friday evening and we headed back to civilization on Saturday morning with wonderful memories of our Morelos experience.

Sunday morning we loaded up and traveled to Acuña for church. It was raining again, but we had gotten use to that. By the time we turned onto the dirt street that would take us to the church we knew that this wasn't just another rain storm. The streets were flooded with rushing water and the rain was still falling. We proceeded *cautiously*, all the time thinking how a little rain hinders church attendance back home. We were not very surprised to find only a few people at church when we arrived. Our skepticism turned to joy as over fifty people braved the flood-like con-

ditions to gather in God's house to worship Him. We took the kids downstairs for lessons, games, crafts, and music. Some of the twenty or so kids were from an orphanage next door. After a wonderful meal prepared by the ladies, we made a very emotional visit to all of the kids at the orphanage.

Sunday evening, with clouds gathering again, we went to another church in Acuña. This time we enjoyed a packed house in a pretty, well furnished church. As we worshipped we could hear that it had started raining again.

It rained all the way back to Piedras Negras.

Monday was bright and beautiful. We were scheduled to do that "market thing" and then enjoy a farewell get together with some of our Mexican friends. We were all set for an early Tuesday departure. We heard during the day that Acuña had a major flood Sunday night and that several people had been killed and many more were missing. We could not help but wonder about the people we had worshipped with just a day before, especially the children at the orphanage. It was reported that the flood wall was a mile wide coming down the Rio Grande. (Geography Lesson — Acuña is right across the border from Del Rio, which the American media reported was nearly devastated by the flood waters.)

Since we were downstream from Acuña and Del Rio, we decided late Monday evening that we might be wise to check on the conditions at the border crossing. Smart move that was! We found that they had already closed the border one time but had reopened it and would be closing it again within an hour. We rushed back to the motel, alerted everyone, packed quickly, and made a dash for the boarder. There were people everywhere as we were heading there. They were gathering to see the record-breaking flood waters. We were not too interested in sight-seeing at this point, but we were amazed that what had been a tiny stream

a week earlier was now a raging river only slightly below the bridge. We felt like the children of Israel as we raced across the raging water. The border patrol waved us through without any hesitation and we were safely back in America! We praised God for the wisdom to check the border when we did and for His guidance throughout our hasty retreat.

Our adventure continued as we drove on to San Antonio. There was very little traffic on the road at that time of the morning. Some of the crew were asleep, others were awake and helping Harold with his driving when suddenly a blue light appeared behind us. Even as Harold was pulling over, we realized that it was federal agents with the Border Patrol and they quickly realized that our haggard crew were part of the good guys. The officer told us that he was a Christian and for us to keep up the good work.

We got in a few hours of sleep Tuesday morning before heading to the airport. As we waited to board our plane for the journey home, I could not help but think of all the mental baggage that we were carrying with us. We all had vivid memories of the life-changing experiences that we had shared together as we had worked in Mexico. We also were full of praise and gratitude for the safe exit that we had made. And now, in spite of our faith, and the knowledge that God's presence had been with us, we could not help but wonder what kind of greeting a lady named Bonnie would have for us back home in North Carolina.



*STT in Morlos, Mexico with Pastor Lasaro and family*



## Baptismal Service — Central District

by Dina M. Peralta



Eleven blessed young people were Baptized in Garcellano Beach during the last day of the Youth Camp, May 22, 1998. These young people are: Angela Gorgonia, Joan-Mae Samones, Amad Lenor, Elesio Cuntado, Jarson Lavrente, Grace Atabelo, Ariel Eleazar, Rexon Rosiald, Monark Lacduo, Raymund

Lustado, and Josephine Garcia. These young people are delegates of different Free Will Baptist Churches here in the Central District, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Their Pastors were also present during the time of Baptism. The Rev. Dario Basingil officiated the Baptism, assisted by the Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr.

This Baptism is one of the good results of the Central District Youth Summer Camp and we're glad for this great decision made by the young people who submitted their lives to our Lord Jesus Christ. And now we are welcoming all of you young people to our Christian family bound with love bestowed to us by God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## First Central District Youth Summer

**Camp** by Marivic M. Adla

The Central District of FWBC, Philippines held its First Youth Summer Camp on May 18–22, 1998, having the theme "The Youth For Tomorrow." The said activity held at PBC Campus instilled in the minds and hearts of every young person, its role in Church growth and Christ's business.

The speakers were the Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr., Pastor Eder Peralta and the Rev. Andrino Segay who lectured on "Stewardship," "Evangelism," and "Faithfulness." After every lecture, questions were asked by some of the speakers to test the understanding of the young people of the topic discussed. One of the special added features after each lecture was the workshop — in which — every participating group was given the chance to dramatize the situation assigned to them and earn additional points. There were also indoor and outdoor games, the cooperation of every group member was noticeable even in their performance of duties as campers.

Each day started and ended with devotions. The proceeding nights, after the first, highlighted the youth's display of talents in Drama's, Comical Skits, and Music.

With this success, the Central District Chairman, Pastor Armand Mazano, in behalf of all the church pastors within the scope of the District, praises God for His unfolding grace and thanks all those who rendered help and prayer in bringing this into reality. Glory to God.



## FOREIGN MISSIONS

## Baptismal Service

by the Rev. Dario S. Basingil

After the North District Youth summer camp, Pastor Juanito Dulce invited me to be the officiating minister for the Baptismal Service on May 31, 1998, at Calawag, Taytay, Palawan.

They had twenty-seven people to be baptized during this time, it was held at Lagoyloy River, and the members supported the service.

In baptism they were confessing their faith in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testifying of their death to acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour and became His people and they were received as members of His church.



## Fulfilling the Great Commissioned

by Pastor Eder Peralta

Last May, 1998, marked the Baptismal service of our congregation in Brooke's Point, Palawan, Philippines. The baptism was held in Tanaki Beach Resort. There were five people (new converts) who decided to accept Christian baptism. We are happy that God continues to lead these souls to know the right way, the way to eternity. Glory to His name!







# October

Pray

Thin

| SUN                          | MON                     | TUE |    |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|----|
| 27                           | 28                      | 29  | 30 |
| 4                            | 5                       | 6   | 7  |
| 11                           | 12                      | 13  | 14 |
| Clergy Appreciation Day      | Columbus Day (Observed) |     |    |
| 18                           | 19                      | 20  | 21 |
| 25                           | 26                      | 27  | 28 |
| Daylight Savings Time Begins |                         |     |    |

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Remember \_\_\_\_\_

|                               | THU                                                                                                                         | FRI       | SAT                                                    |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
|                               | <b>1</b><br>Layman's League<br>Promotional Committee and<br>Executive Board Meeting,<br>VFW Building,<br>Snow Hill, 7:30 PM | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>Pee Dee Auxiliary                          |
| ern Auxiliary<br>e Conference | <b>8</b><br>Albemarle Auxiliary                                                                                             | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>                                              |
| ear Auxiliary                 | <b>15</b><br>Western Conference                                                                                             | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br>Piedmont Auxiliary<br>Pee Dee Association |
|                               | <b>22</b><br>Eastern Conference                                                                                             | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b>                                              |
|                               | <b>29</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b>                                              |

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



## Julie Wetherington...

### A SHINING EXAMPLE AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

by Ms. Sue Griffin Crytzer

Returning as a final semester senior at Mount Olive College is a breeze for Julie Wetherington! Julie, a double-major in business and music is a native of New Bern, North Carolina, a member of Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church, and is a friend to all on campus. After spending the last few years of her college life filled with positive experiences of "Higher Learning, Higher Standards, and Higher Values," Julie is a shining example for the newcomers on campus this fall. She is known for her uplifting personality and willingness to assist anyone at anytime with her helping hand.

Julie wears her bright smile and possesses an energetic air around her at all times. This active senior sings alto in the College Choir, sits on the College Judicial Board, is an honor advisor/counselor in the Freshman Seminar, and the list goes on.

She fills her free time assisting with church-supported and alumni services, acts as a buddy and mentor to underclassmen on campus, and through the Fellowship of Christian Students, she organizes singing groups, devotions, skits, games, jam sessions and other youth group activities for Mount Olive students. Julie's heart is truly in her service to her fellow students and their families.

She pours her energy into volunteering opportunities to give back to the College a small bit of what it has given to her. Her involvement allows her to express genuine enthusiasm and gratitude for her years here at the College, and through her smiles, she certainly touches all lives. She has been described by her peers and the staff as being transformed "like the butterfly" during the four years at Mount Olive College. Her role models at Mount Olive College have been numerous and diverse. Julie has been especially touched by living in Mrs. Dianne Riley's second home in Mount Olive during the 1997-98 college year. Julie radiates as she states that Ms. Riley filled in "as a big sister with their constant morning stairway talks" as the two were coming and going with their busy, committed schedules.

It was the "peace of mind that has made such a big difference" with Julie's parents who never had to worry the last four years about their daughter being away at college as most parents

do. "The Christian environment at Mount Olive College truly makes it unique" was recently expressed by Julie's mother, Mrs. Betty Wetherington. They could always "see the difference" that the College was making in Julie's life.

In addition to her countless volunteer roles, Julie is now working 17 hours each week in the Admissions Office recruiting prospective students, answering their questions, giving campus tours, making follow-up phone calls, and generally serving as a warm heart, representing and sharing the special atmosphere that Mount Olive College has to offer.

For sixteen years of her life, Julie has taken piano lessons, and it provides an important role in her life. As an accomplished pianist and singer, Julie escapes to play the piano and sing. It is through the Children's Choir at St. Paul Methodist Church in Goldsboro that Julie has applied part of her Mount Olive College knowledge into a rewarding mini-profession. Music has allowed this young woman to express herself, rediscover her inward peace, and it prepares her to share her happiness and many joys with others!

*(Ms. Sue Griffin Crytzer, daughter of Linwood and Ruby Griffin of Pleasant Plain FWB Church, Selma, NC, is a new employee at Mount Olive College in the Office of Institutional Advancement and Planning. She is under the supervision of Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support Services.)*



*Julie Wetherington of Gethsemane FWB Church serves as one of the college's peer advisors. Julie, a senior, worked to help freshman Clair Taylor of Hickory Chapel FWB Church adjust to college life.*



## 1998 Mount Olive College Dinners

- Lenoir County**, Saturday, October 3, 7:00 PM, Kinston High School, Kinston, Jeff Daughtry, Chairman. **Goal \$21,100**
- Jones County**, Monday, October 5, 7:00 PM, Pilgrim's Home FWB Church, Dover, Mildred Jenkins, Chairperson. **Goal \$5,250**
- Onslow-Brunswick Counties**, Thursday, October 8, 7:00 PM, Folkstone FWB Church, Folkstone, Ronnie Parker, Chairman. **Goal \$3,925**
- Beaufort County**, Saturday, October 10, 7:00 PM, Beaufort County Community College, Washington, Billy Gurkin, Chairman. **Goal \$13,425**
- Greene County**, Monday, October 12, 7:00 PM, Greene County Middle School near Snow Hill, Randy Beaman and Genevieve M. Taylor, Co-Chairpersons. **Goal \$25,175**
- Edgecombe County**, Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 PM, Peace FWB Church of Pinetops, Luther Bissette, Chairman. **Goal \$6,875**
- Pamlico County**, Saturday, October 17, 6:00 PM, Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, Debbie Whorton and Judy Thaanum, Co-Chairpersons. **Goal \$9,700**
- Nash County**, Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 PM, Whitley Center, FWB Children's Home, Middlesex, John R. Manning, Chairman. **Goal \$11,475**
- Wayne County**, Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 PM, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Joyce Edmundson, Chairperson. **Goal \$56,050**
- Johnston-Wake Counties**, Monday, November 2, 7:00 PM, Place to be announced. Keenan Hinnant and Teresa A. Speer, Co-Chairpersons. **Goal \$49,125**
- Duplin County**, Saturday, November 7, 6:00 PM, Mount Olive College, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Tommy Benson, Chairman. **Goal \$15,725**
- Craven County**, Monday, November 9, 7:00 PM, West Craven Middle School near New Bern, Roy Wetherington, Chairman. **Goal \$21,025**
- Washington, Martin, Tyrrell, and Pasquotank Counties**, Thursday, November 12, 7:30 PM, Union Chapel FWB Church Fellowship Hall, Plymouth, David Cahoon, Chairman. **Goal \$18,075**
- Carteret County**, Saturday, November 14, 6:00 PM, West Carteret High School, Morehead City, Sheri S. Noonan and Edgar Pake, Jr., Co-Chairpersons. **Goal \$14,875**
- Wilson County**, Monday, November 16, 7:00 PM, Beddingfield High School near Wilson, Richard Holmes, Chairman. **Goal \$37,925**
- Pitt County**, Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 PM, J. H. Rose High School, Greenville, Jane T. Tripp, Chairperson. **Goal \$33,925**
- Sampson, Harnett, and Cumberland Counties**, Thursday, November 19, 7:00 PM, Clinton-Sampson Agri-Civic Center, Clinton, Lee Morton Jernigan, Chairman. **Goal \$38,375**

**1998 Total Dinner Goal: \$382,025**

For more information contact:

Jean F. Ackiss

Director of Church Support at Mount Olive College

919-658-2502

800-653-0854



*New officers of the Free Will Baptist Youth Convention discuss plans for the 1999 Convention. Pictured are, sophomore Kristen Carroll of Wooten's Chapel Church, freshman Clair Taylor of Hickory Chapel Church, freshman Scott Satterfield of Pleasant Grove and Lee's Chapel churches, freshman Brandon Jenkins of Whaley's Chapel Church and Casey Brittian, a junior at Hertford County High School.*



*Scott Satterfield of Pleasant Grove Church, Harnett County, had plenty of help from his family when he moved into his room. Scott is a freshman and also serves as a youth minister at Lee's Chapel Church.*



*Clair Taylor of Hickory Chapel Church and her family unpacked several boxes on her first day at the College. Clair is a freshman.*



## MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE A NEW YEAR AND SOME NEW FACES



Mary Kate Thompson of Pine Level Church and Mary Beth Gordon of Branch Chapel Church got acquainted while setting up their rooms. The roommates are freshmen.



Freshman Erik Smith of Mount Zion Church had help from his parents to set up his computer and other technical equipment.



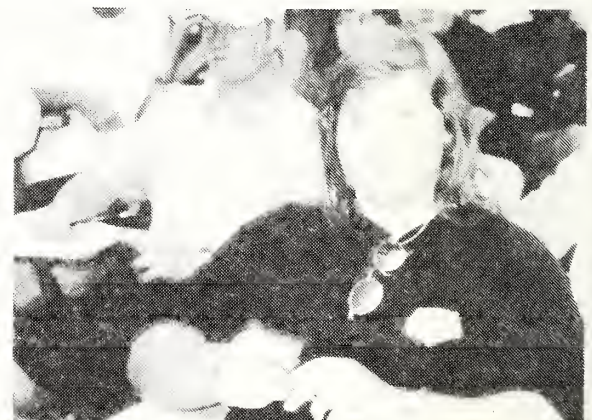
Consins Deanna and Christy Sowers (back left) make College moving-in-day a family affair. Deanna, a freshman, attends LaGrange FWB Church. Christy, a transfer student, is a member of Pilgrim's Home FWB Church. Christy's father, James Sowers, is the pastor of Pilgrim's Home FWB Church.



Brandon Jenkins of Whaley's Chapel Church takes a short break with his parents on moving-in-day at the College.



Danielle Jennings, left, of Reedy Branch Church helps new freshman learn their way around campus. Danielle is a sophomore. Karen Hamm, right, is from Kinston.



Amanda Styron of Pilgrim's FWB Church enjoys her freshman orientation class.



## *An Invitation*

*The Board of Directors  
invites you and your guests to  
our annual luncheon  
for*

*Friends of Children Appreciation Day*

*Free Will Baptist Children's Home  
Whitley Center*

*November 21, 1998, 12:00 NOON*

*RSVP by November 16, 1998*

*Number of Guests for Lunch \_\_\_\_\_*

*Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_*

*Free Will Baptist Children's Home  
PO Box 249  
Middlesex, NC 27557  
(252) 235-2161*

*Keynote speaker*

*Dr. Austin Connors, Jr.*

*Executive Director*

*North Carolina Association  
of Residential Child Care and Family Services*

*Special Music*

*Youth Choir*

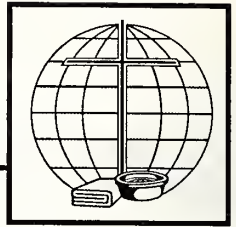
*Hull Road FWB Church*





# People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT  
THE DENOMINATION



## Glory to the Lord!

submitted by Pat Jordan

God is moving at White Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church, Aurora, NC — Praise the Lord. The Lord is moving in such a wonderful way. In the past year the Lord has blessed us with a new ceiling in the Fellowship Hall. The Lord laid it on the hearts of the Harris Family to donate the necessary funds to allow this to be done. The new ceiling has decreased the noise level so much and made it so much better to hear and fellowship together. We appreciate the Harris family and all they do for our church.

On a wonderful Lord's Day, our church family added seven new names to the roll. Four of the seven were new converts and three moved their membership. On June 28, 1998, these seven were baptized. About two o'clock on this beautiful day about fifty

friends and family gathered by the Pamlico River to share in this wonderful occasion. PCS Phosphate was gracious enough to let us use their recreational area and picnic shelter.

Prior to entering the water, Pastor Lagcher read Scripture from Acts 8:26-39, Acts 16:14-15, Acts 25:25-33, and Romans 6:1-4. As the seven were led into the water by the Rev. Lagcher, family and friends sang "Shall We Gather at the River." As the seven came out of the water the church sang "Trust and Obey." It was so wonderful to feel the Lord's presence as the church family watched seven souls dedicate themselves to serving the Lord as new creatures in Christ Jesus. Those baptized were June Bennett, Brad Bennett, Gloria Stark, Harvey and Dartha Rowe, Ginny Bonner and Billy Hardy.

Following the baptism, the group enjoyed a covered dish dinner at the picnic shelter. The Rev. Lagcher presented each candidate with a Certificate of Baptism and made the charge concerning them.

The Lord has also blessed us with a new sound system. Again the Lord touched hearts as people



gave and supported through prayer, donations, and helping with our yard sales. God touched hearts in the communities as approximately \$900.00 was raised at one time. Faith has been released and God has honored our faith, we give God all the glory.

Just recently God brought another soul into the Kingdom of God at White Hill. Mrs. Mary Patterson accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour and we rejoiced with her and the angels on that day as God poured out His blessings.

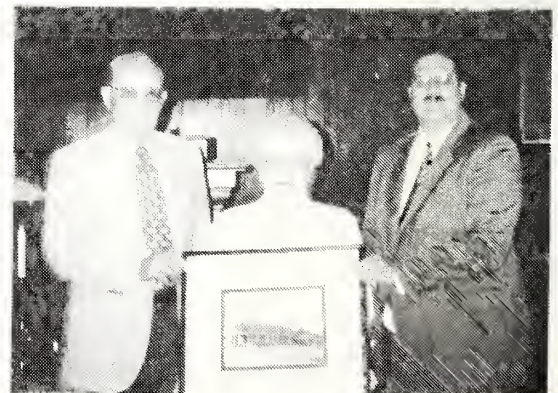
Seeing souls saved and set free is a thing that encourages our hearts to stay on the straight and narrow way. We believe Jesus is coming soon and souls are precious. White Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church is thankful for the Lord's work in the church and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our services.



## Church Honors Former Pastor

On July 19, Northeast Original Free Will Baptist Church, Mount Olive, NC, honored the Rev. A. B. Bryan. This was a way of saying thanks for his thirteen years of service during the two times he was pastor, and also to wish him a happy birthday. The Rev. Bryan was presented a framed picture of the church, with the border signed by members of the church, and a monetary gift. Since his semi-retirement Northeast has welcome the Rev. and Mrs. Bryan as members and the Rev. Bryan continues his service as one of the teachers of the men's Sunday school class.

*Pastor Sherman Dilley (right) presents the picture of Northeast Church to the Rev. and Mrs. A. B. Bryan.*





## Marsh Swamp OFWB Church Celebrates 125th Anniversary

On August 16, the church family of Marsh Swamp Church, Sims, NC, in celebration of its 125th anniversary held an Old Fashioned Evening. The event was attended by approximately 350 people from the church and surrounding community. The celebration began at 5:30 and concluded at 9:00 PM. The evening was filled with laughter, singing and good Christian fellowship.

Several events were held outside and inside the church. Events outside included: a watermelon seed spitting contest, tobacco tying exhibit, young people dressed in attire from the 1870s. Events inside the church included: exhibits from the Charles B. Aycock Historic site, the Country Doctor Museum, and the Tobacco Farm Life Museum. The church also had several pictures and articles showing the history and growth of Marsh Swamp Church. One of the highlights was a linen sheet that had stitched on it the names of those who had contributed to the remodeling of the church in 1953.

In the Sanctuary the air was filled with music. The adult choir, soloists and instrumentalists from the church shared their musical talents. We were also blessed to have singing at this celebration two local groups. Cornerstone, from Buckhorn United Methodist Church sang traditional southern gospel music, and the group Centennial from the Fremont Methodist Church sang hymns from the late 1870s through the mid 1900s.

The evening concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for the joy of the day and the 125-year ministry of Marsh Swamp Original Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson County.

Other events planned for the remainder of the year include:

- October 4-7 Revival with the Rev. Gary Bailey as the revivalist
- October 15 Hosting the 112th session of the Western Conference
- October 25 Homecoming
- November 7 Harvest Sale
- November 8 Farmers Day
- December 20 A time capsule containing artifacts from church will be buried.

The Marsh Swamp church family invites everyone to attend any or all of these celebrations.

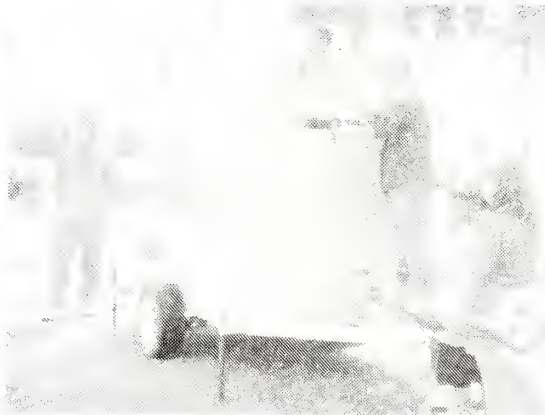
## People & Events

### Powhatan Celebrates Deacon Day and Youth Fun Day *submitted by Rita Otto Jones*

August 9, 1998, was "Deacon Appreciation Sunday" at Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC. Honorees included J. C. Blinson and wife, Joyce, for 50 years of service; Thedford Wood and wife, Pearl, for 40 years; Charles Hill and wife, Christine, for 30 years; and the oldest living former deacon, Glenn Blinson who served for



*Margaret, J. C. and Joyce Blinson at Deacon Appreciation Dinner.*



*After the Rev. Bogle opened up the fun, several others enjoyed the dunking booth — being dunked as well as dunking their friends.*

12 years before stepping down because of family health problems. L. Dwight Stephenson and wife, Ethel, were honored for 55 years of service (posthumously for Mr. Stephenson who went to be with the Lord in July.) Plaques and flowers were presented during the church service and a meal was enjoyed together in the fellowship hall following the worship hour.

August 15 was "Youth Fun Day." Church members (youth and adults alike) and visitors enjoyed games, food, and fun. The highlight of the entertainment was a dunking booth. The Rev. Jim Bogle good-heartedly allowed the youth and members to take turns tossing the ball and "dunking" the preacher! Thank you to Greg Bass for picking up, setting up, and tending the booth. Also, to Mrs. Vicky Bagley for renting it as well as supplying watermelons for the afternoon fun (after the water-balloon toss). There was also face-painting and a "moon-



*The Moon-walk at the Youth Fun Day was a big hit, especially with the younger kids.*

**Cont on next page**



## People & Events

## "Christian Living" Study Course

*submitted and written by Mrs. Ruby Griffin*

### *Powhatan Celebrates Deacon Day and Youth Fun Day, Cont...*

walk" tumbling tent for the youth (thanks to Diana and Greg Bass). A softball game was played in the afternoon and everyone who played won! It was a good day of fun for the kids to enjoy before the start of school. All the adults who helped provide items, cook, serve, monitor activities, etc., received a blessing; and their help and donations were greatly appreciated.

November 29 will be Youth Sunday at Powhatan. According to Youth Director, Wanda Benson, the youth plan to take charge of the morning services — making announcements, teaching each of the Sunday school classes, singing, taking the morning offering, delivering a message, etc.

### *In Memoriam:*

Powhatan member Barbara Southerland went to be with the Lord in August. She was born Barbara Jane Williams on January 25, 1906. She leaves behind three sons, five daughters, 18 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren. She had been pre-deceased by three sons and three great-grandchildren. She was a lifetime resident of Johnston County. In May, she had received a flower from the Powhatan Ladies Auxiliary on Mother's Day during the Worship service for having the most children present with her. Remember her family during this time of loss.



*Woman's Auxiliary participants enjoying refreshments hosted by Pleasant Plain Free Will Baptist Church in the Church Fellowship Hall at conclusion of the Study Course on "Christian Living!"*

"Christian Living" was the topic enjoyed by 54 participants from seven local Free Will Baptist Churches who gathered at Pleasant Plain Free Will Baptist Church, Selma, NC, on July 23, 1998. Mrs. Ruby Griffin, President of the hosting church, welcomed all Auxiliary members, invited guests, and pastors who attended this informative study course taught by Mrs. Myrtle Ballard. Special music and a personal testimony was presented by Mrs. Traci Radford. After the congregation sang "Amazing Grace," Mrs. Nancy Foster blessed the refreshments and the ten church auxiliary members served homemade refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. It was truly a "Christian Uplifting Night" for all participants!

### *Hometown Boy Delivers a Powerful Service* submitted by Veronica J. Haskett

Sunday morning service on July 26, 1998, turned into a reunion for the members of Mount Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Roper, NC. We were visited by the Rev. Russ Ambrose who currently resides in Lucama, NC, just south of Wilson. As a child, he was a native of Roper and a member of Mount Zion Church where local folks know him as "Rusty." He came to know the Lord in 1969 under the pastorate of the Rev. Charlie Overton and enjoyed serving in a rather reserved manner. His spare time was usually spent alone playing the piano or reading the Bible and the compassion for both of these grew with him.

After high school, Rusty joined the U.S. Air Force where he also attended the Air Force Community College, majoring in aircraft avionics and later entered into flight training and became a private pilot, which had become another of his lifelong dreams. In September of 1981, Rusty married Lisa Burkey, the daughter of the late Rev. Floyd Burkey and Bernice Burkey, who were at that time pastoring Plymouth First Free Will Baptist Church. They were blessed with their first son, Justin, in 1985 while serving in Germany, and in 1990, a second son named Seth while in Tampa, Florida. While having been stationed in both Europe and in the U.S. at various military bases, the Ambrose family remained actively involved in the church, serving many capacities to include youth ministries, music, teaching and visitation.

In 1990, Rusty was diagnosed with chronic ulcerative colitis. After a lengthy battle with the disease and two major surgeries, he accepted a medical retirement from the Air Force in April 1992. At the same time, he received the calling to preach the gospel and entered into ministerial studies with Berean Bible College. Rusty took his first pastorate in 1994 at Overlook Drive Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville, Tennessee, and received ordination by the Free Will Baptists in August, 1995. This year, he felt led to move back to NC where he is now serving as the minister of music at New Life Church in Lucama.

His return to Mount Zion Church was prompted by the invitation from our pastor, the Rev. Billy Reynolds. The church was nearly filled to capacity by friends, relatives, and members by the time the morning worship began. The Holy Spirit seemed to move upon all those present while Rusty ministered in song and by the preaching of the Word. During the invitation the altar was full of God's children as they spent time in prayer. I shared a brief conversation with Rusty after the service; he stated that he was overwhelmed by the love and unity that had been expressed during his visit. This had truly been a happy reunion, one that he looks forward to again. He also says, "as for the music and the preaching, to God be the Glory!"



# A Day of Celebration at First Church in Greenville

submitted by Barbara B. Arnold

## People & Events

Sunday, August 30, 1998, was a day of rejoicing at First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville, NC. Pastor Ronnie V. Hobgood and his family celebrated their tenth anniversary with the Church, one-half of his twenty-year ministry, previously pastoring the Rose of Sharon Church, Bear Grass, NC, and LaGrange Free Will Baptist Church. Plans began taking place in June. On July 14, a secret letter from Stearle G. Pittman, board chairman, was mailed to the congregation, informing them of the planned surprise service and covered-dish luncheon to follow. A committee was formed and a fund was established for contributions to raise \$6,000 to send Ronnie and his wife, Mitzi, to the Holy Land as a gesture of love, appreciation, and friendship.

Fifth Sunday is normally Layman's League Sunday in our Church and the worship hour seemed routine with the men gathered in the choir loft and with Ronnie at the organ. He had asked if he needed to prepare a sermon, but Stearle had volunteered for the message. The regular service proceeded until after the invocation. Then the door of the sanctuary opened and Sue Dail entered with the oversized "Invitation to Surprise Celebration." Several of Ronnie's and Mitzi's families had gathered in the church parlor, waiting for the surprise and they were ushered to the front to sit in reserved pews. Ronnie, Mitzi, Jessica, and Joshua were summoned to the pulpit for the pinning on of flowers. Ronnie was overwhelmed with surprise which was made obvious with his smiles and tears of joy.

Ushers were asked to distribute new bulletins prepared for the surprise service. May Pittman read a brief writing entitled, "What I Owe My Pastor."

Special flower arrangements were given by Carl and Jean Averette in recognition of the birthday of their son, Vance, and by May Pittman in recognition of Stearle's birthday. They were also given in love and appreciation to the Hobgood family for their dedication to our Church and to God.

After time with the youth by our associate minister, the Rev. Brad Williamson, the service proceeded with special music by Connie Hines, Terry Norman, and Van Stocks, accompanied by Donna George at the organ. They sang "John, the Revelator."

After the offertory, Ann Smith, our Church Secretary, made remarks about her hardworking boss and his commitment to his Church and his dedication to the Franklin Graham Fall Festival of Faith. She also gave some insight into Ronnie's sense of humor.

One of Ronnie's most outstanding accomplishments in his work for the Lord has been his commitment to guide young men in preparing for the ministry. Since coming to our Church, Ronnie has mentored three fine young ministers, the Revs. Joey Williams, Stephen Prescott, and Brad Williamson. His training, discipline, and loving support are evidenced in each of these three young men, all with different styles, but the same steadfast faith and commitment to impart God's Word.

Joey, our first associate pastor under Ronnie's training, was on hand to lead the time of prayer, followed by sharing some of his experiences with Ronnie while he worked with our youth. Through serious

moments and lighthearted laughter, his maturity in God's service and his love for "Boss" came shining through, stirring Ronnie's heart and the hearts of his Church family as well.

"It Isn't God Who Moved," Ronnie's favorite song, was sung by special guest, Patricia Pollard, a long-time friend of the Hobgoods. Stearle Pittman shared Scripture from God's Word and

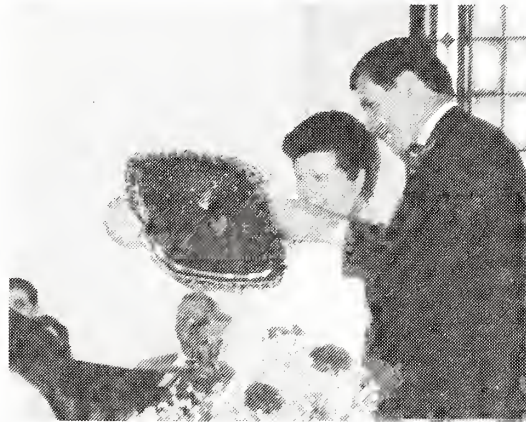
some thoughts of love and appreciation for Ronnie and his family. Another special guest, Kerri Clayton, sang a beautiful invitational hymn, "The Bloodline."

On behalf of the congregation, Jean

Averette presented an engraved silver tray to the Hobgoods. Ronnie and Mitzi open their hearts and their home each Christmas season with an "Open House" for the Church family, so the tray was given as an acknowledgment and to be used especially for that event as well as others.

Stearle then presented Ronnie and Mitzi with the gift of the certificate for their trip to the Holy Land. Ronnie, seldom at a loss for words, expressed his love and gratitude and then seized the opportunity to briefly share Scripture and counsel everyone on being Christians and serving God in whatever capacity the Lord gives to us. Following the benediction, everyone gathered in the Fellowship Hall where the Rev. J. B. Narron gave the blessing on the food.

It was a wonderful day for our Church and we are truly grateful to have Ronnie and his family with us. Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship of the hour, but "the fellowship was best of all." It was a great day of celebration and everyone shared in the joy of the event. It is a blessing to have such a dedicated man of God to serve us and we very much appreciate him and his family.





### New Headquarters Personnel

*submitted by Ray Wells, Convention President*

On September 1, 1998 the staff and Ministry Directors welcomed a new Director of Home Missions and Evangelism and the new General Administrator for the Convention.



In the picture above, the Rev. Ray Wells (left), Convention President, is shown presenting the keys to the Home Missions and Evangelism office to the Rev. Al Markuson.

Brother Markuson was recently appointed as Executive Director by the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism. Brother Markuson has been involved in the work of Home Missions and Evangelism since 1973. Al brings enthusiasm and vision to his new calling.



Above the Rev. Wells welcomes the Rev. David C. Hansley to his new ministry as General Administrator.

Rev. Hansley is no stranger to denominational work, having just completed 12 years as Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism. He brings to the office a commitment to serve the Lord and the Convention in such a way as to bring honor and glory to both.

Following the introduction of the Revs. Markuson and Hansley, and the Rev. Harold Jones, Executive Director of Foreign Missions, prayed a prayer of dedication.

The Executive Committee encourages all our church members and ministers to pray for Brother Al and Brother David in their new ministry roles. We also encourage you to pray for and support all our denominational ministries.

### A Coming Together

*by Dr. Pepper Worthington*

Three Carteret County Original Free Will Baptist churches — Davis (the Rev. Jerry Rowe, pastor), Free Union (the Rev. Michael G. Warning, pastor), and Pilgrim's Rest (the Rev. Clifton Styron, pastor), came together recently at Pilgrim's Rest to celebrate their common faith in God and the community of their Free Will Baptist commitments. Dr. W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus of Mount Olive College, was the guest speaker.

"If I had been blindfolded and brought into this church, I would have recognized I was among Free Will Baptists," declared Dr. Raper as he eyed the congregation. Pilgrim's Rest Church was packed, no space vacant as if to remind the Down East hub of the denomination that a coming together of three small churches could be a celebration of denominational unity among Original Free Will Baptists celebrating the God of eternity, from everlasting to everlasting.



Three Carteret County Original Free Will Baptist churches came together recently to hear Dr. W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus of Mount Olive College. Pictured from left to right are: the Rev. Michael G. Warning, Dr. W. Burkette Raper, the Rev. Clifton Styron, and the Rev. Jerry Rowe.

"How would I know I was among Free Will Baptists?" asked Dr. Raper as he smiled broadly, his eyes a light into the universe of his own commitment, community, and constancy. "First, the music I have heard has come from your heart. Sharing the heart in music is most meaningful. Second, the quality of the spirit here, the spirit of people who are together in the family of God is here. I know I am among Free Will Baptists," he said, his voice almost pitched to a song, for the music of his own mind and heart was about to be spoken.

"I was reading J. M. Robert's book, *History of the World*, and I found this scholar putting time in proper perspective. Let us, for example, let one minute represent a century in the history of the human race. Each minute represents a century. Jesus Christ would have been born 20 minutes ago. The War of Independence would be 2 minutes ago. You and I have been born seconds ago. Let us put into perspective now who God is. He is everlasting to everlasting. He is eternal," he said, his voice raised in the passion of his faith. "The good news is God wants to share His eternity with us."

Dr. Raper acknowledged the presence of three Original Free Will Baptist churches coming together. "The three churches here



### *A Coming Together, Cont...*

today represent fellowship and a commitment to God. Clifton Styron has been here 34 years. Sea Level recently celebrated their centennial. The Davis Original Free Will Baptist Church is some 120 years old. The three churches represent more than three centuries in eastern Carteret County. Why are we here today?" he asked again, his voice moving as if in a refrain, the music of words a line and a chorus.

"We have a common faith," he explained. "The beliefs that we share have roots in Moses. He introduced a concept that is the foundation of Christianity. The Lord our God is one Lord. We must love the Lord our God with all our soul, all our might. God is universal. God is spelled with a capital G; when there is another reference, the spelling is with a small g, usually with an s — gods. But our God is universal. Our God is the one true, universal, and eternal God. That's the great gift of the Jewish people. God is one. God is a power beyond ourselves. Our churches have a steeple to point upward to God. God is the one who created us. We didn't just come into the world. God is the creator and sustainer of the universe and humankind. God is the One in whom we love and move and have our being. How much difference does belief in God make?"

He paused, as if to allow the question to hang in midair, the silence a chance to reflect as if the void allowed fullness to fill.

"To believe in God, to believe there is

only one God can change our lives," he declared decisively. "Our belief makes a difference in our values, in our relationships with one another. We can take either a *secular* view of life — a man-centered view — or a *sacred* view of life — God-centered. Are we at the center of our world or is God at the center of our world?" His voice a question beckoning the quest.

"Our education," he stressed, "must begin with a God-centered perspective. Today religion has been removed from our public schools, from our homes. Today the biggest change in American life is not technology, not our exploration of outer space, not our scientific breakthroughs but the change in the home and the change in the family. Our holidays — Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, and the Sabbath — do not reflect God as the center any more. To place God at the center of life is the very heart of the belief we share together today."

Suddenly Dr. Raper asked, "Is God at the center of life or are we at the center of life? We are healthy and prosperous today, and we tend to feel that we can go it alone. God is the mainspring of our lives, the very fountain of living waters, but we have turned to man-made springs and broken cisterns. When the drought of life hits, the broken cisterns hold no water."

Again he asked, "Why are we here?" Again he answered, "We are here because we have the belief in the eternal God and a belief in Jesus Christ as the

Son of God. That's what makes us Christians. The story of Jesus is called good news, because God has loved us. We come together to share our common faith in God and our common belief in Jesus Christ. We must recognize something else about this faith, also. For four centuries now the Free Will Baptist church has had origins in England. We have a distinctive belief as Original Free Will Baptists. We believe Jesus died for the whole human race, not the Calvinistic idea for an elect, for a predestined few. If any man misses eternal life, this man is alone responsible. We have free will to believe in God. Free Will Baptists believe in the Bible. Free Will Baptists believe in private prayer. Free Will Baptists are a humble and noble people. Free Will Baptists are not critical, not sanctimonious. Free Will Baptists have deep spiritual roots which extend outwards to other people. The Free Will Baptists church is my extended family. The best friends I have today are those in the Free Will Baptist church. I have no regret in putting my life's work in the Free Will Baptist church. There is a fellowship here, a quality of family life.

"And," he concluded, "together your three churches have served Carteret County for more than three centuries. We hope to serve all the centuries that remain."



Gloria Taylor enjoyed the food and fellowship after the service.



The youth choir sang at the Coming Together Celebration at Pilgrim's Rest Church.



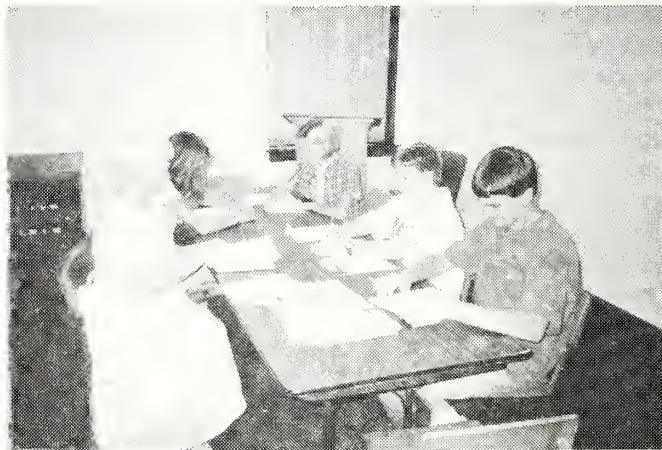
## People & Events

### *First Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro League*

This year, our State League Convention is allowing adults to compete in the State Sword Drill Competition. At First Church, Goldsboro, our young people are enjoying studying and learning as well as competing with their parents at the Sword Drill.



*Brandon Rouse leads our group in the Sword Drill*



*Intermediate League Class*



*Paul Clayton and Melissa Rouse lead in the League Assembly*



*Junior League Class*



*Adult League Class*

### **THE CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE**

of  
Original Free Will Baptists will meet  
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### Special Ministries Volunteer of the Year

Even though each of our Special Ministries volunteers provide a great deal of love and time to the individuals at Caswell Center, Kinston, NC, there is

always one person who consistently stands out in their service. The individual we would like to honor has more than stood out in his service, rather he is the embodiment of servanthood.

In his early life, this individual resided at Caswell Center. Later, he left and worked at several jobs in the Kinston area. But in the early 80s, self-advocacy needed his talents. Understanding probably better than anyone what empowerment could mean to a person with developmental disabilities, he tirelessly worked to organize the local and state association of self-advocates. His efforts in

this area led him into the area of Special Ministries. Being an active member of the Westside Free Will Baptist Church, he knew what a relationship with God meant to him, and to the other persons with developmental disabilities, so he became the self advocate representative on the Lenior County Special Ministries Council. In this capacity he has pursued spiritual empowerment within self advocacy both at the state and local level.

It is because of his leadership among people with developmental disabilities in the area of Special Ministries that we would heartily recommend Hulon Whitehead for the 1998 Special Ministries Award.

Hulon is coordinator for the Lenior County Self-Advocacy group. Following is his biographical information, as he presents it.



*Pictured is Dr. Frank Farrell, Interim Director of Caswell, presenting the award to Mr. Whitehead.*

### Hulon Whitehead

I am originally from Dover, NC, where I was educated at Dover Elementary School through the fifth grade. I was raised on a farm where I helped feed chickens and hogs and take care of my favorite dog.

When I left the public school system, I went to Caswell Center. I went to Caswell because there were no special education classes in the public school system for people with learning disabilities. While I was at Caswell, I went through their academic and vocational programs.

In 1963, vocational rehabilitation got me a janitorial job at a barber shop in the community where I also shined shoes. In 1964, I left Caswell, moved into a boarding house in Kinston, and began working at Lester's Hardware Store. I worked at Lester's for 14 years, as a janitor and stock clerk.

In August of 1978, I worked for a tire company; however, the job ended after just six months of employment. Soon after, I moved into my own apartment.

In April of 1979, I began working at Sport Lanes bowling alley where I was employed until I was injured in a bicycle accident in September of 1983.

After recovering from my injuries, I worked at Neuse Enterprises from November to December of 1984. In April of 1985, I went to work with a janitorial company cleaning the local dialysis center. Unfortunately, the janitorial contract ran out in October, and I was again unemployed.

Finally, in April of 1986, I started working for the Lions Industry for the Blind as a janitor. I worked with Lions until I retired from paid employment in 1993.

Now I do a lot of volunteering for the Arc of North Carolina, my church, Lenior County Self Advocacy Council, the State Self Advocacy Council, and the Taxi-Cab Revue Board for the City of Kinston.

Some of my hobbies include: taking pictures, tending my garden, and traveling every chance I get.

### CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. Robert F. Burke is available as supply pastor and for revivals. He may be contacted at 1196 Jefferson Road, Pinetown, NC 27865 or call 252-927-2041.

Westside Church is seeking an Associate Pastor. For more information contact the Rev. Jeff Daughtry or send resume to: Associate Pastor Search Committee, Westside Free Will Baptist Church, PO Box 1141, Kinston, NC 28503, 252-522-4505.



## 1998-99 Bible Bowl Study Guide

### Topic: The Loving Touch of Jesus

|                        |                               |                          |                                |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Luke 2:41-52 .....     | Doctors in the Temple         | Luke 8:40-56 .....       | Bleeding Woman/Dead Girl       |
| Matthew 3:13-17 .....  | John the Baptist              | Matthew 16:1-4 .....     | Pharisees and Sanhedrin        |
| Matthew 4:1-11 .....   | Satan                         | Mark 10:17-31 .....      | A Young Rich Man               |
| Matthew 4:18-25 .....  | Fisherman                     | Luke 10:38-42 .....      | Martha and Mary                |
| Mark 1:29-34 .....     | Simon Peter's Mother in Law   | John 8:1-11 .....        | An Adultrous Woman             |
| Matthew 8:5-13 .....   | The Centurion                 | John 9:1-41 .....        | A Blind Man                    |
| Mark 2:1-12 .....      | Paralyzed Man                 | Mark 10:35-45 .....      | Jealous Disciples              |
| Mark 2:13-17 .....     | The Tax Collector             | Luke 18:15-17 .....      | Little Children                |
| Matthew 12:22-36 ..... | A Demon Possessed Man         | Luke 19:1-10 .....       | Zacchaeus                      |
| Mark 4:35-41 .....     | A Raging Sea                  | Luke 22:66-23: 25 .....  | Pilate and Herod               |
| Mark 5:1-15 .....      | Insane Hermit                 | John 13:1-20 .....       | Washing Disciple's Feet        |
| Luke 7:36-50 .....     | The Sinful Woman with Perfume | Mark 14:12-22, 43-52 ... | A Betraying Disciple           |
| Matthew 15:21-28 ..... | The Canaanite Woman           | Luke 22:1-6, 47-53 ..... | A Betraying Disciple           |
| Matthew 17:1-13 .....  | Peter, James, and John        | John 20:24-31 .....      | A Doubting Follower            |
| Mark 9:17-29 .....     | Nicodemus                     | Luke 24:36-49 .....      | After Death with the Disciples |
| John 3:1-21 .....      | Boy with Evil Spirit          | Acts 9:1-9 .....         | An Enemy Who Hated Him         |

### Memory Verses: AFC and YFA

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| John 10:3     | Deuteronomy 18:18 |
| Isaiah 40:11  | Matthew 18:20     |
| Matthew 11:29 | Matthew 4:19      |
| Luke 18:16    | Luke 7:38         |
| John 13:14-15 | John 3:14-15      |

### YFA Only

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Luke 2:49    | Luke 8:43-44 |
| Mark 3:10-11 | Mark 3:10-11 |
| Matthew 4:10 | Mark 4:41    |

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# THE GOLDEN YEARS

Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens



"I will trust, and not be afraid,"  
(Isaiah 12:2).

## Trust

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

When "Miss Rose" and I met with our attorney to review our estate plan, one of the instruments he had prepared was a "Durable Power of Attorney." After reading his draft, I commented, "This document authorizes someone else to dispose of everything I own!" I will not soon forget his reply: "You need someone to act for you when you cannot act for yourself, and it is important that you choose a person whom you trust."

My next appointment that morning was with the legal counsel of a deceased friend, who in her estate plan had named me as the trustee of a trust she had established for a dependent member of her family. As we executed the necessary papers for a transfer of funds to the trust, I was brought face to face with the meaning of the faith my friend had in me.

That afternoon I attended the funeral service of a long-time friend of Mount Olive College. The pastor spoke tenderly of his visits with her, first in her home and later to the healthcare facility where she spent her final years. He related how she faithfully participated in the life of her church well into her nineties, but the time came when she could no longer manage her affairs and care for herself. Someone else had to act on her behalf.

I came home that evening with the word "trust" heavily on my mind and opened *Harper's Bible Dictionary* for a definition. It read, "Trust. See faith." Immediately, I turned the pages to "Faith" and read the words: "trust in, or reliance on, God who is Himself trustworthy," (Paul J. Achtemeier, Harper and Row, Publishers, 1985). Trust and faith: no words are more deeply embedded in the Bible or in life than these. What do they teach us?

### We Need Family and Friends.

We did not come into this world on our own. Even before we learned to speak, we learned to trust those on whom we had to depend for food, protection and care. There is never a period in our lives when we are not to some degree dependent upon other people. Throughout life, trust is an indispensable quality for positive human relationships, for unless we trust a person — believe him or her to be true — we cannot have a meaningful relationship with them. Among the most miserable people I have ever met are those who have no one whom they feel they can trust.

In human affairs, there is absolutely no substitute for trust. What value is there in seeing a doctor if we do not trust his or her ability to diagnose our problem? When we carry a prescription to a pharmacist, it is with the trust that it will be filled with the right compounds. Regardless of his pulpit eloquence, a clergyman whom we do not trust cannot effectively minister to our spiritual needs. We all need a confidant but we confide only in those whom we trust. Regardless of its other strengths, no marriage is stable unless it is undergirded by mutual trust. The greatest compliment one can give us is to say, "I trust you;" and conversely, the greatest injury we can do to a human relationship is to violate a trust.

Whether in financial matters or in the dark hours of broken health, we need someone whom we trust to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Faith in the integrity and character of those we trust is essential for our peace of mind and sense of security.

### We Need God.

What others can do for us is often not enough. Even our most trusted friends are finite, and no one is perfect. Ultimately, our trust must be in a Love and Power that transcends the limitations of humankind. The yearning and search for that Love and Power is the story of religion during the long history of the human race. The gift of Christianity is that God has precluded that search by the revelation of Himself, especially in the advent of Jesus Christ.

Trust in God and faith in Christ as our Lord and Saviour is the most sublime experience that can come to a human being. To practice the trustworthiness of God during adversity, suffering and disappointment can be a transforming experience.

For all of us, there are times when we feel overwhelmed by circumstances and problems beyond our control. Sooner or later, life carries us out into deep waters where we realize that our strength and resources are inadequate and that our lives depend upon God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves. When these experiences have come to me, I have always been sustained by the words of the Prophet Isaiah which were printed on a box of stationery I received when I was a boy at the Free Will Baptist Orphanage:

"Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee," (Isaiah 26:3).

1998 (Vol. 4, No. 1) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



### Gleanings from the 1985 Issues of *The Free Will Baptist*

Groundbreaking ceremonies for a fellowship hall were held recently at Malachi's Chapel Church, Columbia. The Rev. Raymond Lagcher, pastor, and Mr. Abram L. Swain, chairman of the deacon board, turned the first spade of dirt. They were assisted by Iradell Hassell, Hilton Simmons, and Richard Reynolds. The women of the church were instrumental in the leadership of this project.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

The North Carolina State Layman's League has established a Ministerial Scholarship Endowment at Mount Olive College. Through June 30, Gifts to the Endowment have totaled \$3,355. The first scholarship in the amount of \$350 will be awarded to a ministerial student for the 1986-87 academic year.

~ • ~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Mt. Zion Church, Cash Corner, will have been a part of the Original Free Will Baptist Church for 100 years on August 11, 1985. The church, however, dates back many years before then. It was built around 1835 and is the oldest church in Pamlico County, constructed with wooden pegs and with a balcony for the seating of slaves.

### Information Concerning Articles for Publication

The editorial staff of the Free Will Baptist Press is always ready to help you get your news items and articles published. Following are some suggestions for making the process easier.

1. Type all copy, (please, no hand-written). Use 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> X 11 inch paper.
2. Keep a copy of material (include your phone number so the staff may call if there are questions about your copy.)
3. Indicate the title of the article approximately two inches from the top of the page. Leave an inch and a half at the top of each succeeding page; and for the convenience of editing, please number succeeding pages. Type on only one side of the paper. Please do not type in all caps.
4. Leave a margin of at least one inch on both sides of the paper.
5. Write no more than one article to the page.
6. Clip pages together, using paper clips. Do not staple pages.
7. Read, reread, and correct your own copy.
8. Observe and practice the proper rules of grammar and punctuation.
9. Prepare your articles and reports as far in advance as possible. Articles for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the tenth of the month preceding the date of publication. (Example: Items for the September issue must be

in by the tenth of August, etc.)

10. Photos will not be returned unless requested and only when return postage is provided.
11. Feature articles should be limited to no more than six, double-spaced, typed pages.
12. Registration forms will be printed in no more than two issues, and only one unless requested to do so.
13. Full page announcements will be printed in only one issue. If more than one printing is necessary, it will be reduced to one or two columns.
14. Please do not send camera-ready articles. It is better if we set materials in our own style, etc.
15. Please remember that the editor makes the final decision as to whether an article should be published or not. Articles and items that are not dated, may be printed in a later issue.
16. Send articles to: The Editor, The Free Will Baptist Press, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513-0159.

We express our appreciation to the churches and individuals who provide us with the news items and articles for publication. You are helping us to record a history of our denomination. Please keep up the good work. We will do our part to serve you through the pages of *The Free Will Baptist*.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Barbara Rabhan. *Scrappy's Venture*. Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press, 1998.

## Introduction

In Barbara Rabhan's children's story about the raccoon Scrappy, we meet a frisky raccoon who enjoys searching for "a nice juicy bite" by the "light of the moon." But Scrappy's food venture was in defiance of what his mama taught him. Mother Raccoon had five babies to protect — Whacky, Slacky, Flossie, Flea, and Scrappy. Scrappy's exploits in the woods place him in crisis.

## Scrappy in the Woods

Scrappy's mama had warned him that hunters might be out to get him if he were not careful. Rabhan has Mother Raccoon tell Scrappy and her children to race up a tree when the dogs are barking and the hunters are near. They listen to Mother Raccoon. She leaves all five to wait for her return, but Scrappy is defiant and he sneaks off from his brothers and sisters — a choice his mama would be angry about. Scrappy knew this, but Scrappy was defiant.

Off he goes into the dark woods and leaves his safe home "in the old hollow tree." Before he knew it, he was "very tired and sleepy" and then "frightened" because he had abandoned the safety of his home.

Scrappy knew he had done wrong. How? "He felt it way down inside." Regretful, "Scrappy gave up on his venture that night. He sat down and oh! how he cried."

## Mother Raccoon in the Woods

Mother Raccoon had better luck in the woods than her disobedient son, Scrappy. She had promised her babies that she would get them some food, and so she did. Her return became an event as she came back "dragging a big fat hen."

When she got back to the hollow tree, she sniffs the air and hears the cry of her missing boy. She left the hen with Scrappy's brothers and sisters and off she raced to retrieve her wayward boy. A mother's love is deep as the woods.

## Mother Raccoon's Rescue of Scrappy

Carefully Mother Raccoon searched the woods until she found Scrappy. Barbara Rabhan writes:

That Mother had found him safe and alive  
Out where he n'er should have gone.  
Soon he was confessin' that he'd learned a lesson,  
he'd remember now — forever — and on...

## Brothers and Sisters at Home

Scrappy's brothers and sisters were worried when Mother Raccoon left to find Scrappy. Barbara Rabhan writes:

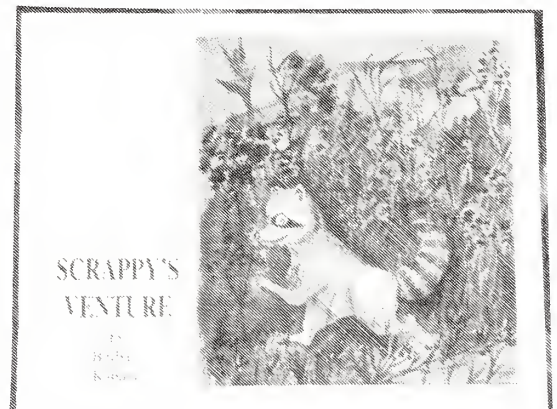
The sisters were crying; there was no denying,  
He was nowhere to be found.  
Then there they all huddled; all were befuddled,  
While they were looking around.

## Return Home

Mother Raccoon returns with Scrappy and the entire family rejoices. The siblings shout for joy, so they all can enjoy the "nice juicy hen." Scrappy remains unhappy in bed.

## Conclusion

Numerous professional teachers and principals have found *Scrappy's Venture* a wholesome story. Librarian Frances J. Murphy commented: "This fast reading story poem about a little raccoon, who was doing exactly what his mother told him not to do, is so true today. The descriptive words and actions of the story read well. *Scrappy's Venture* showed love between the ones in the family and shows a strong family unity.

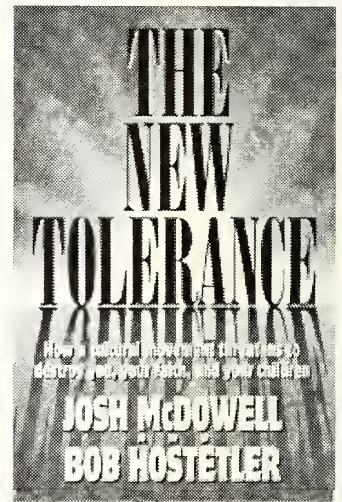
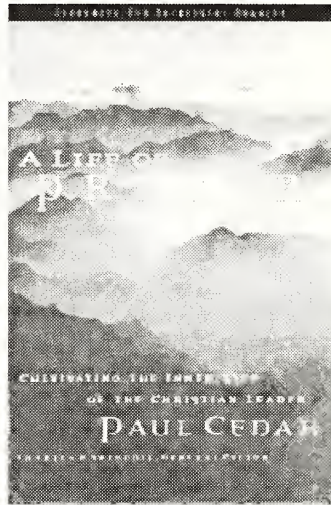
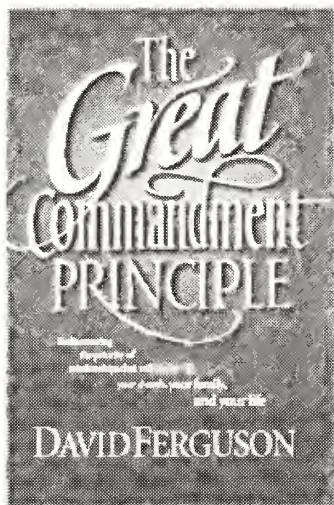


*Scrappy's Ventures by Barbara Rabhan*



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# The Free Will Baptist

NOVEMBER 1998



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## The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

I first began to hear about the Rev. Billy Graham in the late '40s; however, it was while a student at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, that I really became interested in his preaching and evangelistic ministry. Each week I would listen to "The Hour of Decision" on the radio. If my memory is correct, I usually picked up the broadcast each Sunday. I also remember attending some of the larger churches in Nashville to view movies produced by the BGEA (World-Wide Pictures). A large number of students would attend the showing.

His rapid-fire sermons fascinated me, and his fiery delivery demanded constant attention. There was no doubt about his sound doctrine, his sincerity, or his dedication and determination to proclaim the truth of God's Word. His sermons were punctuated with, "the Bible says..." His messages warned the nation of its sins and the necessity of repentance and left no doubt about the consequences of rejecting Christ. Although age has taken its toll on this great evangelist and his movements have slowed, his message is the same. He has not digressed from the gospel message which he preached when he began.

The impact of the BGEA will never be determined on this side of Heaven. Those who were instrumental in the conversion of Billy Graham, and those who were his mentors and spiritual advisers, perhaps never imagined the extent and eternal results of the commitment of a young man to the call of God. His "team" of coworkers is equally dedicated. The Crusades held throughout the world have resulted in the redemption of thousands of souls. The outgrowth ministries — the Billy Graham Schools of Evangelism, the Cove Training Center, World Wide Pictures, *Decision Magazine*, Grason Publications, plus the many books written by Billy Graham — continue to make their impact on our world. Many thousands of redeemed souls will one day stand before their Saviour as a result of the ministry of the BGEA.

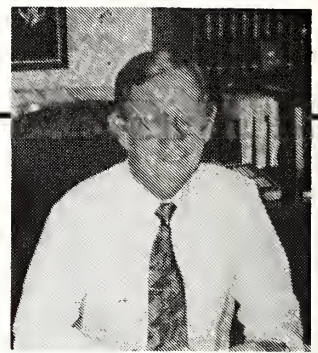
Twenty-five years ago I attended a Graham Crusade in Raleigh, NC. This was the first time I heard Dr. Graham in person. Some years later, while attending our ministers' conference at Cragmont, we learned that he was scheduled to speak at Montreat on Wednesday evening; therefore, we canceled our own service and drove over to Montreat to hear Dr. Graham. In 1990, while attending the School of Evangelism in Asheville, Dr. Graham spoke for a few minutes during one of the sessions. I admire and respect him greatly. I have read his books and followed his ministry all of my adult life. The BGEA has risen above the ordinary to heights of respectability. The power and direction of God have opened doors to the

spread of the gospel throughout the world as he has stood in the presence of presidents, kings and rulers. His cooperative evangelism approach has provided the opportunity to be "...made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

After attending the School of Evangelism in Asheville, we visited The Cove, located just off I-40, near Black Mountain. At that time, The Cove had not been developed as it is now. Our host graciously explained the purpose of The Cove to become a training center. During the discussion, we asked if the BGEA had considered a successor to Billy Graham, in the event that he become disabled. His reply was that no one had been named, however, the most likely successor would be Franklin Graham, the eldest son. A few years ago he was chosen. He now carries on his own Crusades, under the BGEA.

The recent Festival '98 with Franklin Graham, held September 27-29, at ECU's Dowdy-Ficklin Stadium, was attended by more the 62,000 persons. I was there for each service, arriving early and taking it all in. What a joy it was — to worship together with those from other denominations, to witness the hundreds of persons who streamed down the aisles to rededicate themselves to God or to receive Christ as Saviour, to hear the more than 3000 volunteers as they blended their voices in the "mass" choir, to observe the volunteer ushers as they directed the multitudes to their seats and fulfilled their part in the success of the Festival, to watch the volunteer counselors as they ministered to those gathered around the platform when the invitation was given, to see family members embrace each other, and the tears shed because of the wonderful miracle that was taking place in their lives.

Yes indeed! What a blessing it was. The services were not the same as that of the Billy Graham crusades. The music was louder and different, but the testimonies of the singers and musicians were the same, and the message was the same as the gospel went forth from the heart of Billy Graham's son. As the months and years come and go, testimonies will flow from the hearts of those whose lives were touched and changed because they attended the Franklin Graham Festival, and they will tell their children about that certain and special time, and the story will be told to their grandchildren and the angels in heaven will continue to rejoice because souls are being born into the Kingdom of God. Only eternity will reveal the impact of the BGEA and the Festival of '98.



C. H. Sherman

## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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## NEXT MONTH

*December is  
Foreign  
Missions  
Month*

*November is  
Children's Home  
Month*



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# Features

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## Thanksgiving

by Katie Roper

**T** The giving of thanks and praise to God for His blessings on us. Sometimes it takes a catastrophe or a tragedy to shake us up — make us pause and realize just how good God is to us. He has spared us these things, so we should be doubly grateful.

**H** How great God is and merciful toward us in sparing us tragedy. We hear through the news media of storms, earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanoes, high winds, and high waters that have taken place in various parts of the world — so many have lost crops, homes, loved ones and are left with nothing. We should shout with praise and thanksgiving: “Thank you Lord for your blessing on me.”

**A** Answers to our prayers. In most every praise and prayer service in our church someone expresses thanksgiving to God for answered prayer.

**N** National ministry workers in Mexico. We have no other missionaries except national workers in Mexico right now. We should thank God for Free Will Baptists who began a missionary work in Mexico — especially brother T.E. Timmons and family who taught and trained “called out” men of God to become missionaries to their own people. Many Mexicans became Christians through his ministry.

**K** Kindling the fire of the Holy Spirit in our hearts that quickens us to work and support our missionaries who are working to feed lost souls with the Word of God and to supply their physical needs.

**S** Study the Word of God that we might know how to witness to Jesus without being ashamed.

**G** Giving of ourselves to God a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to His will which is our reasonable service.

**I** Intercessory prayer that takes us into the Holy of holies where Jesus awaits our petitions and presents them to God.

**V** Victory over sin, the devil, self, and temptation. He bought us and He paid for us with His own precious blood and gave us life eternal. Yes, praise God there is victory in Jesus!

**I** In everything give thanks. For friends; for freedom of worship with other believers in our church; for our missionaries; for means of transportation with ability to get around; for abundance of good food and water; for shelter, heat and clothing; for the ability to work and make a living; for accessible medical care and nursing homes. Many more blessings that we take for granted are unknown to many. To God be the glory!

**N** Never ending mighty love of Jesus (Whom to know is peace) that the world outside of Christ has never known. Great is His faithfulness, and His mercy and forgiveness are past understanding.

**G** Guidance, comfort, and inspiration of His Holy Word through the Holy Spirit. Guidance in sharing His blessings to others who are less fortunate than us.

*Katie Roper has worshipped and served at Sidney Original Free Will Baptist Church for over five decades. She taught Sunday school, directed YFA, served as musician, and was foreign missions chairperson when this article was written several years ago. She was married to Edwin Roper for 67 years who passed away in April of this year. Katie is a lively 89 years and lives at home in the Ransomville community outside of Bellhaven. She has two children, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.*

# Eighty-Sixth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists: THE CALL TO WITNESSING

Article and photos by Dr. Pepper Worthington, Director of Mount Olive College Press

## Part I

### The Rev. Ray Wells, President Eighty-Sixth Annual Session

The Rev. Ray Wells, president of the Eighty-sixth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, turned to the Old Testament story of Moses to greet delegates and guests in College Hall at Mount Olive College. Several hundred people filled the hall to give an energy, excitement, and enthusiasm to the occasion.

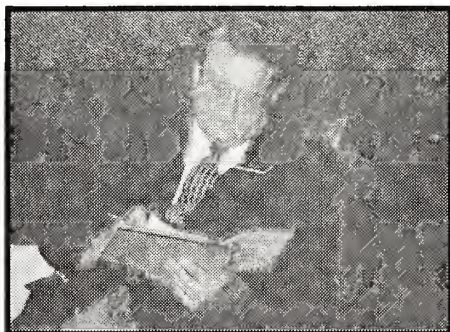
"Why are you crying to me?" noted Rev. Wells as he was identifying God as the One asking the question. "Moses was to take the Israelites to the Promised Land, but the Children of Israel were disenchanted. They had lost their faith because a few soldiers — Pharaoh's army, and a little water — the Red Sea — stood in the way. God told them to go forward, to continue. God says to us also to go forward, to continue," he stressed as he looked out upon the faces of College Hall.

"This is my last session as president of the Convention. We need to pledge ourselves to go forward in our prayer life, to go forward in our witnessing, to go forward in our worship. Today we say we have 35,000 Free Will Baptists. But we've always had 35,000 Free Will Baptists. We have not increased our number. Shame on us!" he scolded.

"What do we need to do?" Rev. Wells asked. "We need to go forward in our financial support of our local churches. We need to give more time. We need to give more sacrificially. If a church fails to support all of the ministries of our Convention, then the church has failed to live up to our Articles of Faith," he said.

"We must go forward against the injustice of the world. We must go forward against the immorality of the world. To go forward against the

immorality of the world, to go forward in the name of Jesus Christ is the victory. Rise up, oh Church of God, give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings," he concluded.

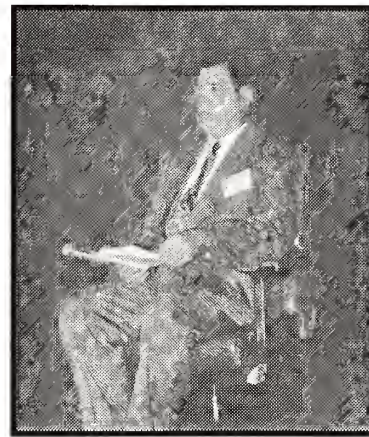


*The Rev. Ray Wells, president of the Eighty-sixth Annual Session of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention, looks over his notes.*

### Introduction of the Rev. David C. Hansley to the Position of General Administrator

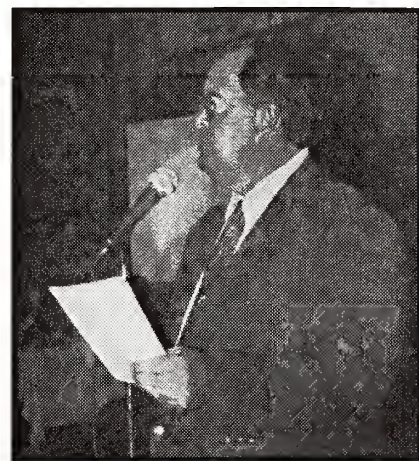
Two changes in the Original Free Will Baptist Constitution were presented and passed. First, Article 2: Section 23 established terms limits to two consecutive terms in any one convention office. Second, Article 2: Section 4 of the By-Laws and Article 3: Section 4 changed the title Executive to General Administrator.

After the Rev. Buddy Sasser read the Executive Committee report (pages 11–14 in *Annual Reports for 1997–1998*) and after the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood gave the financial report (pages 15–18 in *Annual Report for 1997–1998*), the installation of the Rev. David C. Hansley as General Administrator for the Original Free Will Baptists began. Mary Dudley led the hymn singing with "Holy, Holy, Holy." The Revs. Hobgood, Harry Grubbs, and Buddy Sasser surrounded Rev. Hansley.



*The Rev. Ronnie Hobgood gave the Financial report (pages 15–18 in Annual Reports for 1997–1998).*

The Rev. Buddy Sasser read the statement of purpose:



*The Rev. Buddy Sasser*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great head of the Church, who being ascended on high, hath given gifts unto men for the edifying of the Body of Christ, we are met here as a Convention, and as a church to set apart and consecrate this man, David C. Hansley, as the General Administrator of our denomination.

In this act of consecration, the Original Free Will Baptist Church, as a



part of the universal Church, affirms anew its belief in the gospel of the sovereign grace and love of God, wherein through Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, incarnate, crucified and risen, He freely offers to all persons, upon repentance and faith, the forgiveness of sins, renewal by the Holy Spirit, and eternal life; and calls them to labor in the fellowship of the Church for the advancement of the Kingdom of God throughout the world.

"The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists affirms our belief in the Old and New Testaments as the Scriptures, which are the Word of God and our rules of faith and life. We further acknowledge our commitment to: *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* and hereby reaffirm our adherence thereto."

The Rev. Ray Wells presented the new General Administrator to the Convention guests and delegates as he said: "Brothers and Sisters in Christ and our Original Free Will Baptist order, I hereby present to you, the Rev. David C. Hansley, our duly and properly chosen General Administrator."

The Rev. Buddy Sasser then gave the charge: "Brother Hansley, are you thoroughly familiar with the requirements and duties of this position and office, and are you willing to make full and complete commitment to the necessary and proper execution thereof?" (Answer: "I do so commit myself to God and the Church.")



*The Rev. Ray Wells (left) congratulates and then presents new General Administrator, the Rev. David C. Hansley, to the Convention delegates and guests.*

To the Convention: "Do you renew your vows of fidelity to our Lord Jesus

Christ, and your allegiance to His church, and do you solemnly covenant to work together with our administrator to extend the gospel in its purity and power in this Convention and throughout the world, and as faithful servants of our Lord to give our administrator your support in every way, according to your abilities and opportunities?"

Free Will Baptist ministers came forward to celebrate the anointing led by the Rev. Bruce Dudley. The Executive Committee assembled to share in the Laying on of Hands. The Rev. Sasser then presented the denomination pin to the new General Administrator, the Rev. David C. Hansley. The Rev. Sasser said, "We present this pin to Brother Hansley to highlight the significance of his commitment. The pin is a reminder to us that we have a representative who cares about our churches."

The Rev. David C. Hansley replied, "I want to say thank you. I will need your prayers. I will do my duty to my Lord and to my church. I want to thank my wife Sylvia who has been patient during the transition."



*The Rev. Bruce Dudley administers the anointing with oil. In the background are the Revs. Buddy Sasser and President Wells.*

### **Nominating Committee Report**

The Rev. Paul Grubbs

The Rev. Paul Grubbs, chairman of the Nominating Committee, read the Nominating Committee report (pages

19-25 in *Annual Reports for 1997-1998*). He also asked Brother Henry Armstrong to stand and be honored as a lifetime member of the Board of Foreign Missions, the Rev. Harold Jones also thanked him for his dedicated work with the Board of Foreign Missions.

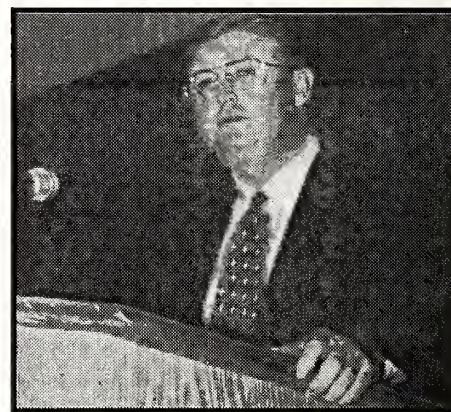


*The Rev. Paul Grubbs*

Mary Dudley led the hymn singing. She introduced her friend, the Rev. Bryant Hines, who sang special music, "Whatever It Takes."

### **Children's Home Report**

Dr. Bobby Taylor



*Dr. Bobby Taylor*

"Child care ministry is a ministry of this Convention and our churches have been good to it throughout the years. Our ministry has reached 1400 children," said Dr. Bobby Taylor, President and CEO of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, North Carolina.

"The past year was one of our most difficult years but also one of our most significant years," reported Dr. Taylor.



"We began working towards national accreditation through the Council for Accreditation Services of Families of Children. We are waiting for the results of that," he said. "We were hoping we could announce our new accreditation credentials at the Convention, but we are not able to do so. Now we hope that by November 21, 1998, we can announce our accreditation at our Children's Day," he explained.

"We have put in a lot of work to try for accreditation," he noted. "We will persevere to accomplish this. Accreditation will be a benchmark for the children's home," he stressed.

"Let me add that we are looking forward to reviving our programs and to putting them under copyright, because we believe they are that good. We are making preparations for adult living programs. We are trying to underwrite a family preservation program which means we are trying to keep a family intact before the family has to break up. It is time for parents to renew their strength and to gain objectivity. Through education, we want to work with the parent and work with the child," said Dr. Taylor.

"What we need now," he continued, "is to hire another therapist. Our need is great and continues to grow. We have a program now where a parent stays on campus in an apartment so that the child spends a one-on-one time with the parent. There is no television. The child and parent have to sit there and communicate. We encourage that they set goals and build relationships," he said.

"The child care ministry has grown tremendously," he stressed. "We envision for the next year to begin a day care program for children two to five. We want a quality day care so that we can connect to the community. We want to build a strong foundation of support to offer a quality program. Today our main campus at Middlesex is all female. We want to be true to our mission and open up a group home or emergency shelter to serve males. We invite you to come and join us on November 21. Have lunch with us. We are a ministry of the Convention of Free Will Baptists," concluded Dr. Taylor.



*During the Wednesday morning session break, the Rev. Michael G. Warning (front), helped four members of Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church to collect goodies from the Convention booths. From left to right, front row: Mamie Taylor, Pastor Warning, Gladys Noyse. Back row: Pauline Gaskill, Almata Taylor.*

#### **Church Finance Association Report**

The Rev. Don Fader

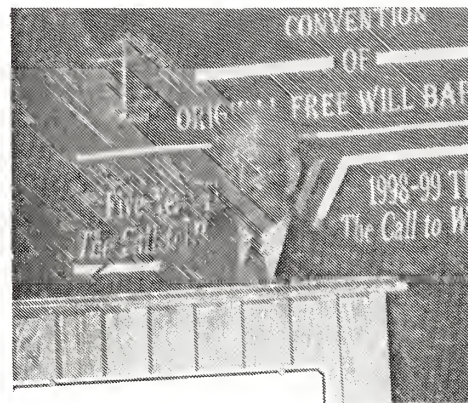
"I am glad to announce that we are able to make loans to churches at lower rates than from lending institutions," reported the Rev. Don Fader, Director of the Church Finance Association, Inc. "This is the third year I have had the privilege to make this report. We have two new programs to assist our churches. The first one is a fund account which allows us to use funds our people offer. We pledge to these contributors that we will put these funds to good use at an interest rate of 4.75 percent. Churches might have Certificates of Deposits for expansions or general deposits. These funds can be ready in 90 days. We do appreciate your deposits," he said.

"Our outstanding loans have reached two million dollars. We want to help churches. We ask you for your prayers. The only people we loan money to are churches and ministries of this denomination. We ask you to purchase a membership. We do not solicit contributions, but if you wish to make some, we'll use that money to

further the Lord's work," he concluded.

#### **Foreign Missions Report**

The Rev. Harold Jones



*The Rev. Harold Jones*

"Our Board of Foreign Missions is now called OFWB International," explained the Rev. Harold Jones, Director of Foreign Missions. He noted the name change information on page 43 of *Annual Report for 1997-1998: Our name has officially changed from The Board of Foreign Missions Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc. to OFWB International, Inc.*

"The work of Foreign Missions is now in India, Nepal, Mexico, Bulgaria, and the Philippines," the Rev. Jones reported. "We have only one budget to aid all these mission fields. Imagine how we have to stretch our money," he emphasized.

"What has been quite successful is our Short-Term Team Ministry program," the Rev. Jones continued. This ministry has blessed the lives of team members, churches in other countries, and our churches here in the United States. This is a ministry highly recommended for everyone. It will change your life and outlook and give you a new appreciation for other cultures. We encourage churches to send members, your pastor, and his wife on a Short-Term Mission Team," he said.

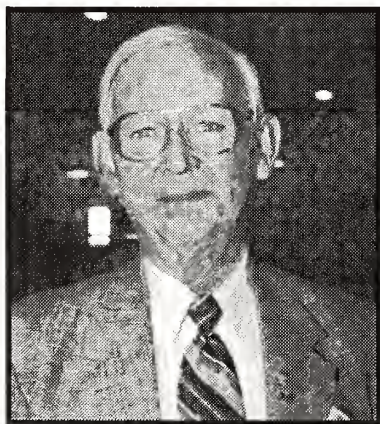
"We have also started a Build One For Them program," added the Rev. Jones. "This program has offered churches and individuals an opportunity to become directly involved with a 'Sister congregation' on one of our fields. Several buildings have been constructed through this



program. There are, however, many more needs. We encourage you to prayerfully consider one of these projects," he encouraged.

"This is the greatest year we have ever had financially," stressed the Rev. Jones. "We are only as strong as our local churches makes us. We must ask of ourselves whether God is pleased at what we are doing to fulfill the great commission. Is God pleased with us? Missions is the very mandate of the church. Missions is not just a program; it is God's mandate," he stressed.

"In Bulgaria, Kiril Svilenov, a medical doctor, has been added to our staff. He has opened a clinic in Sofia, the capitol city. In India, two church buildings were dedicated last January. There are almost one billion people in India and yet Christians make up only two percent of the population. In Nepal, two chapels have been built to serve the needs of the people. We face, however, new government restrictions placed on religious organizations by the Hindu Government. In Mexico, a Short-Term Team completed a parsonage at Piedras Negras. In the Philippines, our mission work has spread to many new cities throughout the Visayas and Mindanao. Workers are being trained through Theological Education by Extension and sent out to start new churches," the Rev. Jones reported.



*Henry Armstrong, Jr. stood as delegates and guests applauded his zeal for making missions a mandate from God and from the Original Free Will Baptist Convention ministries.*

"I have been with the Foreign Missions program since 1981. Henry

Armstrong, Jr., Chair of the Board of Directors, has served 23 years. He chose not to continue to be on the Board because of health reasons. I would like to say to him how much I appreciate all he has done to make Christ known around the world," the Rev. Jones announced.

Henry Armstrong, Jr. stood as delegates and guest applauded his zeal for making missions a mandate from God and from the Original Free Will Baptist Convention ministries.

The Rev. Jones recognized Mrs. Timmons and concluded, "God bless each of you with the fullness of His Grace."



*From left to right, John Taylor, Mrs. Timmons, Sandra Jones, and the Rev. Robert Langley meet at the Foreign Missions booth.*

**The Rev. Sherman Barnett, Speaker  
Worship Service  
Wednesday, 10:50 AM  
September 16, 1998**

Mary Dudley opened the Wednesday morning worship service with a song she dedicated to three women who helped her in her role as an Original Free Will Baptist Minister's wife: Faye Evans, Alice Barrow, and Elizabeth Hansley. She then sang in full-throated ease and joy the hymn, "To God Be The Glory."

The Rev. Ronnie Hobgood, who has been directly involved in the planning of Festival '98, the Franklin Graham Crusade, introduced the Rev. Sherman Barnett, Crusade Director for the Billy Graham Association. The Rev. Hobgood spoke about the friendship that has been established in his association with Rev. Barnett in the planning for the Franklin Graham Crusade, which was held September 27-29, 1998, in Greenville, NC

"It is a great privilege to bring you greetings from Franklin Graham," the Rev. Barnette began. We live in a technological age that we can turn our beeper off so as not to get the message. But I tell you, friends, it is a positive thing to share the gospel of Jesus Christ," he exclaimed.

"Amen!" echoed Bishop Forbes from the front row.

As a basis for his message, the Rev. Barnette read the story of the four men who brought the palsied man to Jesus for healing, as recorded in Mark 2:1-12.

"I want to turn your attention to the story of the four men who brought a paralyzed man to Jesus. These four men had such faith in Jesus that they believed if they could get this paralyzed man lowered through a roof to reach Jesus that Jesus would heal him. Now I ask you, what kind of love did these four men demonstrate?" His eyes surveyed the delegates and guests quiet in College Hall. "I'll tell you what kind of love," he continued, his voice forceful and passionate. "These four men showed an unconditional love, a kind of love that surpasses social, race, and educational status. Their love reached out unconditionally to bring a paralyzed man to Jesus. Where does that unconditional love come from? It comes from our daily intimate walk with Jesus Christ. It comes from keeping the royal law of loving your neighbor as you love yourself. There is no way we bring up unconditional love from our own strength, our own ability, or our own efforts. Unconditional love comes from our belief in the healing power of Jesus!"



*The Rev. Sherman Barnett was the Wednesday morning worship service speaker.*



"Amen!" echoed Brother Forbes.

"We are commanded, my friends, to go find them and bring them to Jesus!" continued the Rev. Barnett, his face flushed, his eyes on fire. "Go find the people and bring them to Jesus. Reach out to the people who need to experience the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. There are hopeless people out there, my friends. There are people squandering their lives in the world. We must bring them to Jesus," he said.

"What else do we learn from these four men who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus?" he asked. "We learn the power of cooperation," he explained. "We learn that they had to agree on the common goal. They had to agree on a method. They had to agree on a time. I wonder if they were Baptists," he said with a smile.

"These four men must have had a difficult time getting to Jesus with the paralyzed man," he explained. "I am sure they had sore backs, sore feet. They may have had to pull off their coats, their ties, and roll up their sleeves. They had to pull off their dress clothes and really get into the trenches. They shared the load and the responsibility. It was tough, but they did what they had to do to get the person of Jesus. Pity the man who falls and has no one to pick him up. Pity the man who feels hopeless and cynical, because he lacks a spiritual life. Materialism is not the answer. The world cannot fill the vacuum and void within us. Only Jesus Christ can fill that void. Alone we may become tired and discouraged, but working together we hold each other up. Team work divides the task," he said.

"What else do we learn from these four men who brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus?" he asked. "We learn about their faith. These men were convinced that if they could get that lame man to Jesus that Jesus could heal him. Jesus could transform this man's life. Nothing is too big for Jesus. Even though the man had been paralyzed all his life, these four men were convinced Jesus could help them. They realized no one was beyond the reach and transforming power of Jesus Christ. The ultimate solution of every human being is problem is to experience the

love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ," he said.

"What is a fourth thing we learn from these four men?" the Rev. Barnett asked. "We learn something about creativity, about the uninhibited and unashamed choice to do what it took to get the man to Jesus. These four men had to figure out how to get the men to Jesus through the crowd. Did they give up?" he asked.

"No, No," said Bishop Forbes.

"What did these men do?" wondered the Rev. Barnett. "Why, they dug a hole in the roof on top of a house. Imagine the dirt falling down as they lowered this man right down in front of Jesus. I'm convinced that we, too, should use every legitimate means possible to bring people to Jesus. We may not have much time to do that," he noted.

"What else do we learn from these four men?" he asked. "We learn persistence. These four men were persistent. They were no sissies. They taught us the lesson to hang tough. Will you help bring people to Jesus? Will you take the corner of the stretcher?" he asked.

#### **A Body on a Stretcher**

*Justice or injustice appears irrelevant  
as the body aches, muscles harden,  
lungs unable to breathe easily  
as if oxygen were sucked out of space  
to meet the needs of another,  
the wasted self lost alone  
on a stretcher*

*Nothing in this world or in another  
seems alive,  
hope hidden at the bottom of Pandora's box  
while the world gets and spends  
its energy,  
stocks, markets, trading the fabric of space  
rather than this sick body  
on a stretcher*

*What then can a soul do  
alone on a stretcher?  
Pray? Weep? Despair?  
Nothing outside in whirlwinds or traffic  
meets the eye, ear, and heart  
of the sick body alone  
on a stretcher*

*God may look down and see*

*but where is man?  
Where is love in a universe  
of fire and ice?  
Suddenly four sets of hands  
grip each corner  
where the body aches  
on a stretcher*

*Off the four go with one body,  
hope rattling the darkened bottom  
of Pandora's box  
until the moment of unconditional love  
traps despair and awakens faith  
that the soul is more  
than a body  
on a stretcher*

*...Pepper Worthington*

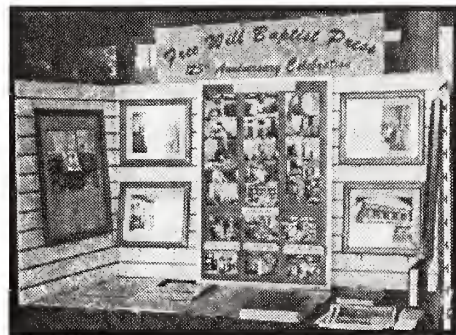
#### **Free Will Baptist Press Report**

Mr. R. Clifford Gray

"Greetings from the oldest denominational ministry," began Mr. R. Clifford Gray, Director of the Free Will Baptist Press. "Last night was a great blessing as we celebrated 125 years of our work. Let me invite all of you to go upstairs to Room 201 and see our display. Dr. Michael Pelt's book is up there. We invite you to subscribe to the *Free Will Baptist*. See me or C. H. Overman," he said.

"The Free Will Baptist Press is a membership organization. Churches need to send in their proxy cards or representatives so that we can have a 50 percent quorum. Please return your proxy cards so that we can have our meetings," he stressed.

"The Free Will Baptist Press receives funding through purchases of our Christian merchandise and through printing. Thank you for your purchases of Bibles and books," he concluded.



*The Free Will Baptist Press booth was a favorite gathering place.*



## Home Missions and Evangelism Report

The Rev. Graham Lane



*The Rev. Graham Lane gave the Home Missions and Evangelism Report.*

"I'm glad to be here today and I'm excited," said the Rev. Graham Lane. "Today we come to celebrate our home mission ministry. We have become a powerful voice as we have become involved with our outreach programs. Another addition to our ministry is the new Mission/Church that will begin in November of 1998, on the Outer Banks in Sunrise Landing subdivision at Point Harbor, North Carolina, under the direction of the Rev. Keith Pelletier," he reported.

"We also would like to announce the opening of three churches for Spanish missions: one in Carteret County, Duplin County, and Wayne County," the Rev. Lane reported.

"We have started a Disaster Relief Program, because we seek to reach out to other people when they feel like no one else is there. If you are interested in helping with this program, please fill out the application. We will train you for this program," he explained.

"We also have a Kid's Care Project where care boxes for kids have been delivered. If the Woman's Auxiliary is interested in expanding your program to include children across America, let us know," he explained.

"Today, also," he added, "I am excited about our balanced budget. Our financial statement is the best we have presented to the Free Will Baptists," he said.

The Rev. Lane noted that the Board of Directors appointed the Rev. Al Markuson to be the new director of Home Missions and Evangelism. The past director, the Rev. David C.

Hansley, has been appointed to be the General Administrator of the Convention.

## Minister's Program Report

The Rev. Don Fader

"We seek to improve our service to our ministers and to the church," said the Rev. Don Fader. "Local churches cannot pass off the responsibility for their minister by saying the Lord will provide. We need people and churches to invest in our program. Our program has come a long way and we appreciate any help you can give. This past year we lost the Rev. Franklin Brinson," he reported.

## Mount Olive College Report

Dr. J. William Byrd

"We welcome all of you to your campus," began Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College. "The story of our enrollment continues to be a good one. Our overall enrollment is up eight and a half percent. We expect by the end of the term our enrollment growth will increase to 10 percent," he reported.

"We have five locations for Mount Olive College," Dr. Byrd continued. "We have Mount Olive College at Goldsboro, Mount Olive College at New Bern, Mount Olive College at Wilmington, Mount Olive College at the Raleigh Triangle, and Mount Olive College at Mount Olive. We enroll students almost every month out of the year," he said.



Dr. J. William Byrd

"Now let me give you some highlights of what's happening at Mount Olive College. We have begun

our Church Ministries Program in a modular format. We have practicing professionals in the ministries take programs out into the different sites. Also, our College offers services to the church from scholarships to students, to pulpit supply, to workshops. In addition, the College has established the Barrow Professorship of Biblical Studies, a bequest left by Taft Barrow which has increased the fund substantially. We appreciate the support of the Barrow family — Bruce, Alice, Taft, and all," he said.

"As we grow, we need additional space for books. We seek to expand our Moye Library with a modest price of \$30,000 so that we can store more books and materials. Also, one of our important outreach efforts is with the Mount Olive College Press. We have 51 titles in print and offer our MOC Press as a priority opportunity for people particularly in North Carolina to get their writings into print. The 1998 Season of the MOC Press features 5 new publications: Bonnie Blue Burton's *Mother, I Have AIDS*; Barbara Rabhan's *Scrappy Venture*; Bonnie McCarson's *Touch My Soul*; Pepper Worthington's *A Memoir of the Duke Divinity School Conference*; and Dr. L. C. Turner III's *Dentistry: From Dummy to Genius*. We appreciate your continued support of Mount Olive College," concluded Dr. Byrd.

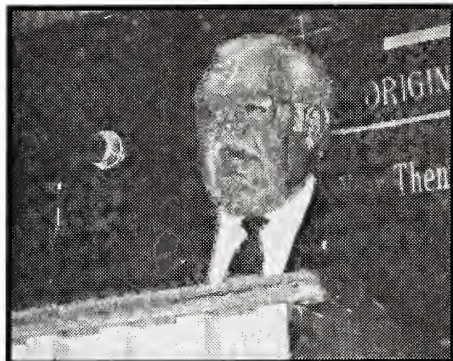


Dr. J. William Byrd (back row) recognized five authors and their books as the 1998 season of the Mount Olive College Press. Left to right, Dr. L. C. Turner III *Dentistry: From Dummy to Genius*, Barbara Rabhan *Scrappy's Ventures*, Bonnie Blue Burton, *Mother I Have AIDS*, Bonnie McCarson *Touch My Soul*, Pepper Worthington *A Memoir of the Duke Divinity School Conference*. Photo by Michael G. Warning.



## Retirement Homes Report

The Rev. Bruce T. Dudley



*The Rev. Bruce T. Dudley*

"We had a despicable financial situation a couple of years ago," reported the Rev. Bruce T. Dudley. "But I am happy to say that today we do not have any amount of money overdue. We are in good shape financially. I am thankful to the Free Will Baptists who have made that possible. The bad news is — now we've got to go to work. We have only three residents and we cannot reach out to help others on our current resources. The retirement home project must not overextend itself ever again. We have guidelines before we take on certain people. The three residents in care today are Rose G. Brown, Kaye Jones, and Margaret Brown," he concluded.



*Kaye Jones thanks Free Will Baptists for allowing her to be in one of the retirement homes.*

Kaye Jones came forward to thank the churches for allowing her to be in one of the retirement homes. "God bless you," Ms. Jones began. "I thank you that you have given me a home. I am always proud to be a Free Will Baptist. The Free Will Baptists are rooted in my blood. We are 35,000

proud people today. I know we can grow in love and unity," she said.

## Sunday School Ministry Report

Mrs. Mary Dudley



*Mrs. Mary Dudley*

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your financial support," said Mrs. Mary Dudley. "Many churches have called us to conduct workshops. Let me ask you now to put the first Saturday in March 1999 on your calendar for the annual institute at Mount Olive College, the event where we focus upon teaching

and learning in Sunday school. We are updating our Sunday school handbook and training teachers for Sunday school. We want to encourage you to witness through special activities during the coming year. Take note also of Friend Day and pick up one of our booklets explaining this special event. Please call me if I can be of service to you or to your church, she said.

## Project Solution Report

The Rev. C. H. Overman

"Since 1994 the Project Solution has existed," explained the Rev. C. H. Overman. "The basic purpose has been in the area of outreach and evangelism, our projects promoting growth in our churches. We need to reach out to people. As you notice the four banners — Worship, Growth, Care, Equip — you will notice how this project seeks to implement our five-year theme — The Call to Renewal. We have a diagram of our denominational structure which we hope you will find one of the best approaches to define our denomination," he concluded.



# 1873 - 1998

*Celebrating  
125 Years of Service  
to Original Free Will Baptists*



# 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration

September 27, 1998

by Jean N. Tripp

On Sunday, September 27, 1998, Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary with over 300 people in attendance. The message was delivered by the Rev. Roger Tripp with text taken from Leviticus 25:10 "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you;..." Everyone had a great time celebrating in the worship service. We also had a memorial service. After the worship service, we enjoyed fellowship with dinner on the grounds and visiting the recreation building where there were displays of old pictures and other things brought in by members of the church — pictures of the church dating back from 1920 until present day. We also had on display two quilts. One was made about 1950, embroidered with church member's names on it. The new one was just completed and was named the "Jubilee Unity Quilt." It had squares made to represent all the different families in the church with the Center Square being a picture of the church. Flowers were planted around the church in honor and in memory of loved ones.

The church was named for the Rev. William Ormond, who came to NC from England around 1735. The original structure was completed in 1803 and named Ormonds Chapel Church and operated as a Methodist Church.

In 1947, the membership of what is now



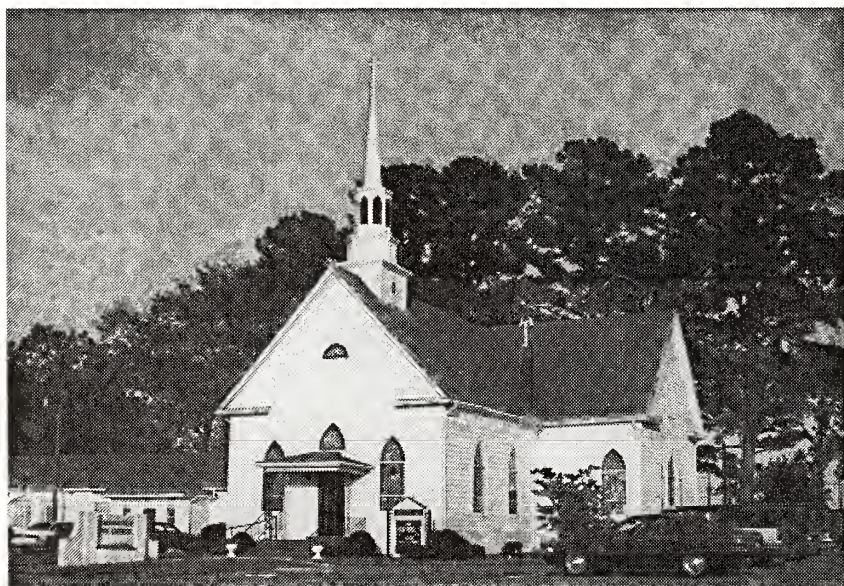
*Pictured above, from left to right, Dr. Don Ribeiro, the Rev. Roger Tripp, Mrs. Sybil Tripp, and Toby D. Tripp stand in front of the quilt.*

known as "Old Saints Delight Church" with Pastor W. M. Pollard, located about one mile north of Ormondsville, on state road 1335, voted to purchase the building at Ormondsville. In the summer of that year, under the pastorate of the Rev. D. W. Alexander, the church moved to the new location and under the name of Saints Delight Free Will Baptist Church of Ormondsville. Some of the members refused to move and remained at Old Saints Delight.

In March 1953, under the Pastorate of the Rev. R. N. Hinnant, the church unanimously voted to change the name of the new church to Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church. That same year, plans got underway to add a Recreation Building for the use of the church and the community. From 1948 until 1954 the Rev. Hinnant served as pastor. This was a very exciting time for the church. Many people were saved and the church was alive and on fire for God. Almost all the members during that time were farm families and they worked together and worshipped together. In 1954 the Rev. Hinnant resigned and was proceeded by the Rev. S. A. Smith. The Rev. Smith and his wife were fondly called "Ma" and "Pa" Smith.

The Recreation Building that was started in 1953 was completed in 1955. The building was, and still is, used by the church and members for family and church functions.

In 1956, the Rev. Clifton Rice replaced "Pa" Smith. The Rev. Rice stayed for 22 years. During that time the church made many improvements in the buildings and grounds.





In 1965 stained-glass windows were put in the church, making one of the most beautiful country churches anywhere.

From 1978 until 1985, the Rev. Jack Mayo served as pastor. The church had very trying times when he left and were brought back together by the Rev. Sammy Gay's leadership.

In 1985, under the leadership of the Rev. Charles Branch, we were again moving ahead for Christ. Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church is a very caring and responsive church. The church responds to needs in the community. We believe that we have a mission to witness and minister to the community and to all those we come in contact with. We support the missionaries and all the denominational enterprises.

After years of service, in 1998, the Rev. Charles Branch resigned and we were fortunate to have Dr. Cedric Pierce to act as interim pastor.

What a great day! We are celebrating our fiftieth year. We have a new pastor, Dr. Don Ribeiro and his family in our church. We are looking forward to great things in the future. There are church auxiliaries for all ages within the church. They meet the first Sunday night of each month. There is Sunday school at 10:00 AM, with Sunday Worship Service at 11:00 AM. Wednesday night we have prayer meeting. Everyone is invited to come join us. You will find both young and old working together on church projects and enjoying church outings. After all, God's Church is not a building, but God's People joined together.

## Meet Our Pastor and His Family Dr. Donald Alan Ribeiro



Dr. Ribeiro has been an ordained minister in the Free Will Baptist Church since 1983 and a member of Winterville Free Will Baptist Church since he was 14 years old. He has concentrated on Sunday school and youth work.

Born in Summerville, Massachusetts in 1960, Dr. Ribeiro lived in Kinston until he was 11 and grew up from then on in Black Jack.

He received his BS Degree in Chemistry from East Carolina University in 1982 and his MD Degree from the East Carolina School of Medicine in 1986. He completed his residency in family

medicine at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in 1989. He was chief resident of the Family Practice Residency Program in 1989 and board certified in Family Practice that same year. He has practiced at Pitt Family Physicians in Ayden since 1989.

Dr. Ribeiro is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha, Alpha Epsilon Delta and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. He is also a member of the Central Conference Ministerial Association, Pitt County Medical Society, North Carolina Medical Society, North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, Eastern Carolina Health Organization (ECHO) and Atlantic Primary Care.

Dr. Ribeiro and his wife Karen live on Frog Level Road with their three children: Jessica, Sarah, and Joshua. His hobbies include golf and water sports.

### Layman's League Dates to Remember

- |             |                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 6  | State Layman's League,<br>Harrells Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Snow Hill, NC.<br>Meal - 7:00 PM, Business - 7:45 PM. |
| November 16 | Eastern Conference Layman's League,<br>Silver Creek Church, Highway 24 West, Swansboro, NC.<br>Meal - 7:00 PM, Business - 7:45 PM. |
| December 3  | Promotional Committee and Executive Board, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7:30 PM.                                                       |
| December 7  | Central Conference Layman's League, Elm Grove Church, Ayden, NC.<br>Meal - 7:00 PM, Business - 7:45 PM.                            |



# Camp Vandemere

## Our Family Enrichment Center

### *A Dream Come True*

*by the Rev. Timothy Webber*

In November 1998 my wife and I joined Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA). From that time on we've been attending their Motorcycle rallies. Something amazing about this was out west the churches rolled out the red carpet for this outfit. They are interdenominational made up of protestant believers with a love for motorcycles, and a burden for lost souls. We met in their home town at Hatfield, Arkansas. Linda and I spent several days here. What was unique is we ate breakfast or lunch at a different church each time. We couldn't get over the love these believers showed us. I found myself saying it's not big enough to accommodate a National Rally, but Camp Vandemere would be a great place to have a state rally.

On August 14, 1998, I saw that dream become a reality. Over a hundred and seventy motorcyclists and guests rolled into Camp Vandemere. I suddenly began to feel a lump come up into my old throat and humbly proud to be a part of the Original Free Will Baptists. I watched people of all ages enjoying motorcycle games, swimming in the pool, fishing, setting up tents, and getting their gear in the dorms. That's where I'll be staying next time. Maybe I'm getting old, but hot water and air conditioning is the way to camp.

Brother Gaskins and staff served fine meals at a reasonable price. Quite often I would hear a staff member saying to "the guest, if there is anything we can do for you all just let us know." We are blessed to have a place like this for God's children to enjoy. At first I found myself wishing our forefathers who worked so hard to get this Camp could have seen all the fun we were having.

Some years ago, I sat in a conference here. When it was over I felt as though I'd attended a PTA instead of a worship service. I found myself saying I hope

someday to really feel God's presence in this place. Man did I ever see that dream come true. Now I'm not talking about some charismatic movement. I mean starting a service off with special singing, then a praise and worship service before the speaker hit the pulpit. If a man is called to preach they can't help but preach in a service like that. I saw souls saved, lives rededicated, and a five thousand dollar love offering taken up to help a needy family. At the men's conference I saw grown men confess problems they had never shared before in their life. What

kind of service was it? The kind our Free Will Baptist forefathers bragged about. I believe they called them Camp meetings. Do you reckon that's why Christian Motorcyclist Association has grown from forty-five thousand to sixty-seven thousand since November of 1994.

May I encourage Free Will Baptists to invite other Christian groups to utilize this facility? Oh, and thanks for the hard work, love and finance you've put into Camp Vandemere over the years. It made a wonderful spiritual retreat for CMA.

### *30 Years in the Making*

### *from a Small Acorn to a Great Oak*

*by the Rev. Ralph Sumner*

In 1 Corinthians 16:9 Paul writes "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."

In August, 1968, the first offering was received from a group of weekend campers on retreat for our own camp ground. In October, 1968, a resolution was passed in the setting of the Eastern Conference to proceed with securing a parcel of land in Vandemere for a camp.

From that small beginning (acorn) has grown a great camp (oak). As all "Live Oaks" on the coast have gone through many storms, so has Camp Vandemere. It has seen its' adversaries. But God has brought it through. Those adversaries, some from within, have not stopped the success of the camp. Some have even joined up with it. Others are seeing what they have missed and are joining. We offer everyone that opportunity to be a part of a great thing.

Today, after 30 years in the making, Camp Vandemere's assests are more than eight hundred thousand dollars. Hundreds of souls have been saved and thousands have recommitted their lives to Christ. Many thousands have been blessed by the inspiration of being on campus.

"Doors are being opened." The opportunities are unlimited. We are only limited by lack of financial and prayer support. Your encouragement is important to the Board of Directors who represent several of our conferences of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina.

Won't you make a commitment of your prayer and financial support today?

*Ralph is a honorary member for life on the Board of Directors of Camp Vandemere. He also is our General Manger, attends all the board meetings, and shares with the board his knowledge from being camp manager for many years. He has been connected with the camp from the beginning.*



### Wildwood Free Will Baptist Church Makes Contribution

The Rev. Eddie Franks of Wildwood Free Will Baptist Church of Garner, North Carolina recently presented a contribution of \$750.00 to the Children's Home. The money was raised during the Vacation Bible School week in August. Thank you for remembering our ministry during such a busy time of the year.



### Memorial Chapel Gets a Fresh Look

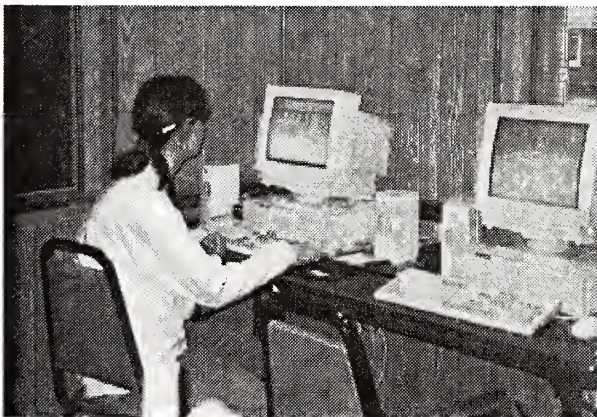
Several of our beautiful days of autumn were used to give Memorial Chapel a fresh coat of paint. From the tip of the steeple, the painters began giving the Church a face-lift in September.



### After School Tutoring Program

Students at the Children's Home get extra help in the evenings after school with study skills, homework and areas of difficulty. The learning center is in Heritage Hall this year. Computers are provided in a lab where students can practice math and reading skills. Certified teachers work with our children three afternoons each week. Our program was very

successful last year. Half of our children are on the honor roll list this school year. We are pleased with the new improvements in this year's program. We anticipate another year of learning success for our kids.



*November is Children's Home Month*



**Friends of  
Children...  
a special way to share.**



**Reminder:  
You're Invited  
To join us for our annual  
Friends of Children  
luncheon  
November 21, 1998  
12:00 noon  
Whitely Center**

**RSVP: By November 16, 1998**

Free Will Baptist Children's Home  
PO Box 249  
Middlesex, NC 27557  
(252) 235-2161

Number of Guest  
in your group for lunch \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## *"Join Our Family Christmas"*

Dear Friends,

Christmas has certainly changed since I was a Child. Reflection allows me to recall the smell of fresh oranges, Christmas candy, and the fra-



grance of baked goodies that were reserved only for this special time of year. These simple pleasures then, were the joys of a child's Christmas. Christmas opens a new world for all of us each year.

Christmas at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home is always a new world for the children we serve. Many of our children have never experienced the many simple pleasures and joys of a happy Christmas. For many reasons, their holidays lack the luster and brilliance of family gatherings, home cooked goodies, and gifts from the heart.

We invite you to make this Christmas special for a child. You can help by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. Simply complete the enclosed Sponsorship reservation and return it to us by December 1, 1998.

Your contribution will be greatly appreciated and will be used to provide a child with a very special Christmas to remember.

---

### **FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME SPONSORSHIP RESERVATION FORM**

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children Sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

Send Form to:

Free Will Baptist Children's Home  
PO Box 249

Middlesex, North Carolina 27557-0249  
or call: (252)235-2161 or fax: (252) 235-2625

**FINAL DEADLINE  
For Short-Term Team 1999  
November 16, 1998**

Please respond by November 16, 1998 if you want to join a team to Mexico or the Philippines. We will definitely close applications on that date.

Dates for the 1999 teams are as follows:  
Philippines    April 17–May 2  
Mexico         June 12–22  
                     July 10–20  
                     August 14–24

Call 252-746-4963 TODAY. DO NOT WAIT,  
YOU MAY FORGET AND THEN REGRET!  
Or complete the form below and mail  
immediately!

**FILL OUT AND MAIL TODAY!**  
Yes! I am interested in joining a Short-Term  
Team in 1999.

\_\_\_ Philippines — April 17–May 2  
  
\_\_\_ Mexico (Please check the date)  
\_\_\_ June 12–22  
\_\_\_ July 10–20  
\_\_\_ August 14–24

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ F  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Board of Foreign Missions  
PO Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513

***Vacation Bible School***

*Submitted by Dr. E. M. Lall*

Our church at Bareilly is continuing the Vacational Bible School for the last three years on local support and specially through donations from the English Service congregation. However, this has been of great blessing that we received enough financial assistance from our Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones to continue this program more effectively during June '98.

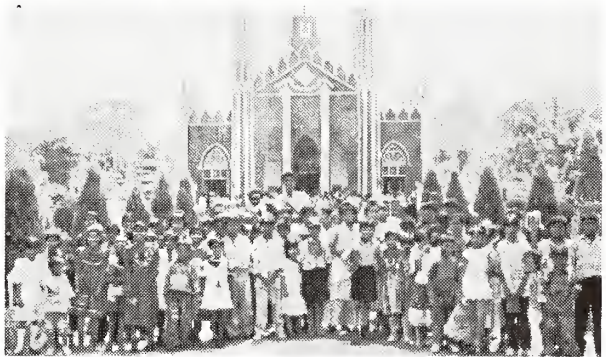
This year the membership of participant children rose as high as two hundred and twenty three.

Different programs and teaching classes were arranged. The students were fully equipped with basic and fundamental issues contained in the Bible. Short stories, comics and gospel reading were undertaken every day. It was a unique program of the church that parents of the children were greatly impressed and congratulated Miss. Jasmine Joseph, Superintendent of Vacational Bible School and the local pastor who scheduled and managed the program. Many prizes were distributed through the Moderator, Dr. E. M. Lall, to encourage the children to learn more about the Word and live up to it.



*Activities of Vacational Bible School held at Bareilly Church from June 17 – 29, 1998.*

*Children and young people attending VBS.*



*Jasmine Joseph, teacher in center of photo.*



# November

Prayer


Things

| SUN                                                       | MON                                                                                                                       | TUE                                                                                      | WED                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>Children's Home Day                           | <b>2</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>3</b><br><i>Election Day</i>                                                          | <b>4</b>                                        |
| <b>8</b>                                                  | <b>9</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>10</b><br>Foreign Missions Board<br>Cape Fear Conference                              | <b>11</b><br>Mo<br>High Sch<br><br><i>Veter</i> |
| <b>15</b>                                                 | <b>16</b><br>Eastern Conference<br>Layman's League,<br>Silver Creek Swansboro, NC<br>Meal — 7:00 PM<br>Business — 7:45 PM | <b>17</b><br>FWB Press Board                                                             | <b>18</b>                                       |
| <b>22</b><br><br>Mount Olive College<br>Alumni Homecoming | <b>23</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>24</b><br>Mount Olive College,<br>Founders Day Service,<br>Rodgers Chapel<br>11:00 AM | <b>25</b>                                       |
| <b>29</b><br>MOC Scholarship Day                          | <b>30</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>31</b>                                                                                | <b>1</b>                                        |

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

ncerns \_\_\_\_\_

Remember \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                              | THU                                                                                                         | FRI                                                                                                          | SAT                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                                              | <b>5</b><br>Central Conference                                                                              | <b>6</b><br>State Layman's League,<br>Harrells Chapel, Snow Hill, NC<br>Meal — 7:00 PM<br>Business — 7:45 PM | <b>7</b>                         |
| live College,<br>isitation Day<br>10:00 AM<br><br><i>Day</i> | <b>12</b>                                                                                                   | <b>13</b>                                                                                                    | <b>14</b>                        |
|                                                              | <b>19</b><br>Children's Home Board                                                                          | <b>20</b><br><br>Mount Olive College Alumni Homecoming                                                       | <b>21</b><br>Friends of Children |
|                                                              | <b>26</b><br>FWB Bookstore Closed<br>FWB Press Closed<br>Headquarters Closed<br><br><i>Thanksgiving Day</i> | <b>27</b><br>Headquarters Closed                                                                             | <b>28</b>                        |
|                                                              | <b>2</b><br>             | <b>3</b>                                                                                                     | <b>4</b>                         |

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

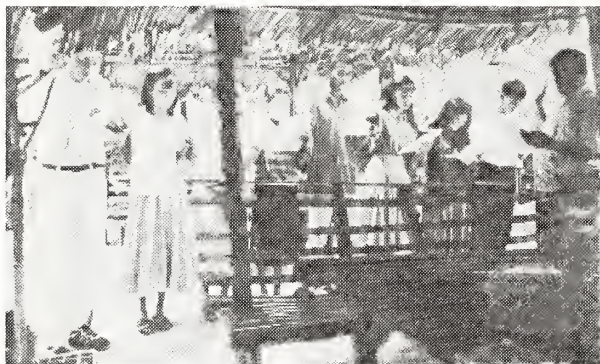


## Palawan Bible College Student Induction and Baptism at White Beach

Palawan Bible College opened its dormitories on June 8, 1998. God blessed us with ten first year and four second year students. On June 28 the Induction of the Student Council was held at White Beach. The Rev. Antonio Samones conducted the service. The following officers were installed: Rommel Cajandoc, President; Maricris Bañez, Vice President; Lenny Fortunado, Secretary; Rutchel Dalabajan, Treasurer; Laida Mondia, Auditor; Aris Laoreno, Auditor; and C.R.O. Lorenda Tupas and Romeo Galleto, Jr.

After the induction, we proceeded to the Baptismal Service conducted by the Rev. Fidel Presto. The two candidates were Lenny Fortunado and Rowena Nifras. This was followed by lunch, siesta and fellowship through song and games. All students, faculty and staff participated in these important affairs.

We are grateful to God for His guidance and also for your prayers.



*Induction service for  
Palawan Bible College Student Body.*



*Baptism at White Beach*

## Newsletter

*Balchik, 26 Augustus 1998*

With great thankfulness we turn our thoughts regularly to our homecoming early this year. We have enjoyed to be with you and regret that we couldn't meet friends in a more personal situation. Even it was not possible to keep our promises to some of you. One of the main reasons was the pain in my back. It was great to meet so many fellow believers, brothers and sisters in our Lord. It was a refreshment to be able to worship with you, to be able to speak freely and openly about the wonderful work of our Almighty God. We thank everybody we met, because you have shown us again that we belong to you and with us the believers here. Together we form one big family in the Lord.



However, to return was a blessing as well. To find the work in good order means that our absence was possible. The Lord has been guiding those who were here and He has shown His presence even when we were not at this place. Pray for all of us and let your thoughts be with the peoples of East Europe. Tezdjan is doing fine and she matures well in the work and personal faith.

Kosta and Stephan have developed their outreach. Their evangelistic music group is well accepted among many Gypsies. They were invited to show their performances in the prison of Varna which was highly appreciated by the inmates and officers. Kiril is very sincere in the search for his task of the work. He desires to do the utmost in the task he was placed. There are Bulgarian Moslems who have joined the Turkish religion during the Turkish occupation, which ended in the end of the nineteenth century. He met some of them who were touched by the gospel, mostly young people, and they have shown genuine interest in the Bible message of salvation by the Lord Jesus Christ. We ask you kindly to bring this matter in your prayers. When Paul wanted to preach in Asia Minor, Bithinia and Pontus he was hindered by the Holy Spirit and by the Spirit of Jesus; Acts 16. Instead he was sent to Macedonia by means of a vision. The Lord's guidance is always necessary and to know his will needs sincere prayer of the church. We count on you in these matters.

In spite of their young age we have seen that the children and the youth are growing in their faith. Several have witnessed that they cannot live in the world and in the Spirit. We praise the Lord for such a blessing. They are an answer on many prayers. My Bible lessons on Sunday evenings follow the message which I used in North Carolina when I was speaking in the churches. The people have come to know more about you and feel the unity



with you in the Spirit of Christ. They are interested to know about you and they try to understand what moves you to make it possible that we can be here. They have come to know that you faithfully support God's work in the world.

We are very thankful for the recovery of Anghel, a Bulgarian boy who was involved in an accident and was in coma during six weeks. Nefeze, the mother of Tezdzan heard about him in the hospital where she works. Without ceasing we prayed for him and his family. He came out of the coma and is doing very well now. One of the members of our prayer group suggested: "Shouldn't we praise the Lord at least as many times as we prayed for Anghel?" I am sure that it is worth, to consider such a remark and to glorify our Lord and Helper for the blessings He brings over us. A good lesson from the former Moslem I received is that they show always praise to their God and Father in Jesus Christ.

The young children enjoy the flannel lessons of Tezdzan very much. The pictures make the lessons alive. They reacted very Gypsy like on the cruel Pharaoh who kept Israel in slavery in spite of his promises to let them go to the wilderness to worship their God. Some of them asked Tezdzan: "Take that rotten Pharaoh from the flannel, we don't want to see him any more." When the Pharaoh drowned in the sea they reacted: "Perfect our God is the strongest, good this is honey in my stomach." When they have a quarrel together they shout to one another: "Pharaoh." They are very strongly involved in the stories and it is wonderful to see how they trust on the strength of the LORD.

The classes were free during this hot summer. Most of the children went daily to the beach to swim and they are enjoying their freedom, but on Sundays they come to Sunday school to hear the stories and to be

together.

Please pray for my health. The back aches are still tough and I look forward to receive good consult in Holland. Bert, my son-in-law, is trying to get me checked by a specialist who works in the hospital where he is employed. I praise the Lord that I still can continue my task and services in the Kingdom. The Lord has been good to strengthen me with his power. Since I left your North Carolina, I lost 28 pounds and another 30 pounds to go. America has

been too good for me because I gained 20 pounds when I was with you.

We thank you all for your love and care and we know that the Lord will make it all well with us here in this part of the world. Together with you under the Guidance of our Lord, we are strong even when we have to meet some hardship now and then.

With love and prayers,  
we all greet you,  
Lydia and Willem

## *My Commitment As A Christian*

I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit Power. The dye has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

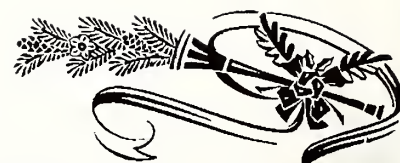
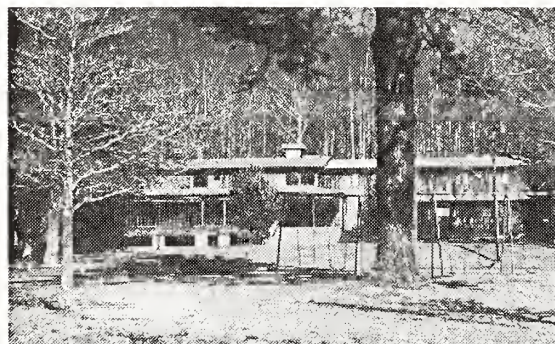
I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have not problems recognizing me — my banner will be clear!

— Written by a young African pastor and  
tacked on the wall of his house.



## Snow Hound

It is time to be thinking about your ski retreat if you haven't already done so. Snow Hound is a great opportunity for your church to sponsor a ski retreat for your youth or for your whole church. Our partnership with Wolf Laurel Ski Resort means you get savings on lift tickets, lessons, and rentals. Our skiing package offers you flexibility and fun! You can ski during the week, weekends and holidays. Once your group decides on a reservation we immediately go to work seeing to it that everything is ready and in place when you get here. If your church is interested in a winter retreat with skiing a part of the activity, then you should give us a call. Contact Arlinda Williams at: Office 828-669-7677, Home 828-669-5334.



## "A Cragmont Christmas"

"A Cragmont Christmas" is a Christmas celebration at Cragmont Assembly slated for December 3 through 6, 1998. Good eating, shopping, entertainment and fellowship will fill our time for the three days and nights we spend together. Of course all of our activities will center around remembering the promise of a Saviour and the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Below you will find a brief list of activities and a registration form. Please clip the registration form and send it along with a \$75 deposit/per person to reserve your place. The balance of \$135.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. This total cost of \$210.00 covers lodging, show tickets, travel, plus all meals served at Cragmont and the evening meal in Pigeon Forge on Saturday.

### Thursday, December 3

Travel to Cragmont and settle in. Evening meal at Cragmont 6:00 PM

### Friday, December 4

Touring around Asheville area:  
Farmers Market, Mall, Black Mountain Shops etc.  
Breakfast and Supper served at Cragmont  
(Lunch on your own at the Mall)

### Saturday, December 5

Travel to Pigeon Forge for two shows: *Comedy Barn, Southern Nights*  
Lunch on your own en-route to Pigeon Forge  
Evening meal as a group between shows

### Sunday, December 6

Breakfast 8:00 AM, Worship service following, Return Home

### Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes I need a downstairs room

Roommate Request \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form, and send it and your deposit to: "A Cragmont Christmas" 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711. If you have questions call Arlinda or John at 828-669-7677 (day) or 828-669-5224 (night). Or fax us at 828-669-1463. Our email address is CragCom@aol.com







## Annual Prayer Retreat

Harvest Helpers (Partners In Prayer for Home Missions and Evangelism) gathered at the Holiday Inn in Kinston, NC to relax, fellowship, share, worship and be challenged to boldly move forward in believing prayer. Those in attendance were spiritually refreshed by the Scriptures, testimonies, singing, and special music. The day closed with everyone gathering together to pray for America and the ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism. We are glad to report that God is answering prayer. For a tremendous experience in the power of prayer — plan to attend the 1999 prayer retreat.

Thank you Harvest Helpers for being our partners in prayer evangelism for America.

HARVEST HELPERS: Praying daily for Homefront Missions.



## Lao Evangelical Headquarters and Church, Fresno, CA

The Original Free Will Baptist Youth Convention's project for this year is Home Missions and Evangelism. They have set a goal of \$10,000.00. This amount will be used for the roof repair and replacement on the Lao Evangelical Church and Headquarters buildings. Our H'mong brethren need our assistance for there are places that already leak. Each church in all of our youth districts are asked to contribute \$150.00 each towards this special project. Let us support our youth, and in so doing, they will exceed their goal. We anticipate organizing work teams to travel to California to oversee this project to completion. God bless you as you pray and give.



## Thank You!

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism would like to Thank You for your faithful and generous offering during the Convention Mission Rally held at Mount Olive College on Wednesday night, September 16, 1998. Your faithful prayer and financial support enables us to reach more people and *Touch more Lives For A Lifetime* than we ever have. Again, thank you for your Homefront Ministry.



## Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner

Mount Olive College recently had an opportunity to say thank you to approximately 600 Free Will Baptists across eastern North Carolina who are graciously helping the College fulfill its mission in higher education.

The College held its annual Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on September 26 at the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. This year's event was held in honor of 1,702 individuals and church organizations that contributed \$100 or more during 1997. The church dinner gift support program totaled \$372,569 last year. About \$248,000 of the total comes from the Bridge Builders fund.

"Bridge Builders is a very effective annual fund program for this College. Annual funds are the life-blood and the bedrock of the gift support program of any College," said President J. William Byrd to the supporters. "You are an extremely important part of this College. You have in your power the ability to build futures for students who come here. We salute you. We thank you."

Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, coordinated the dinner and presided over the evening's program. "This is one of the greatest and biggest events of the year that we look forward to because of you, our special donors who come. This gives us a chance to say thank you," she said. "Every time that you give a gift to Mount Olive College, you're making an investment in the lives of the students that we serve."

Two students spoke of their experiences at the College and thanked the donors for their support. The speakers were Marci Rollins, a freshman who attends First Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro, and Julie Wetherington, a senior who is a member of Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church in Craven County.

Each year, as a token of appreciation to those who gave the College \$100 or more, the Mount Olive College Press

gives a book to each Bridge Builder. Dr. Pepper Worthington, editor of the Mount Olive College Press, announced that this year's gift was a children's book written by Barbara Rabhan of Kinston. The book is entitled, *Scrappy's Venture*.

Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music, directed two choral groups, the Mount Olive College Choir and Free Spirit. These students provided the evening's entertainment with a 35-minute array of Christian music. The singers received a standing ovation.



*Pictured on right, Kristen Carroll, a sophomore and member of Free Spirit, talks with her mother, Syvonne Carroll (left) and aunt, Cathy Batten, (center) at the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner.*

## Administration Building Named

The administration building has been named in honor of a family who has given generously to the College for many years.

President J. William Byrd announced at this year's Bridge Builders Appreciation dinner that the College's administration building has been named after W. Roy Poole and his daughter, Dr. Anne Pepper Poole Worthington, editor of the Mount Olive College Press and member of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church in Carteret County.

The administration building now is called the Poole Administration Building. It houses the offices of the president, institutional advancement and planning, admissions, finance, business, alumni affairs, public affairs, church support and bookstore.

In the early 1990s Roy Poole of Kinston provided the College with the funds needed to build the administration building, and his construction company did the work. There was a small residual debt which was a College responsibility. A recent gift from Dr. Worthington removed that indebtedness. Poole's original intentions were to provide the necessary funds for a building to house the Mount Olive College Press. The end result was the construction of a building large enough to house almost all of the administrative offices of the College.

"One family has had a profound influence in helping the College in one area of our work that is very important to us," Byrd said. "We are grateful to them for the wonderful gift they have made to the College."

Under the recommendation of Byrd, the College's Board of Trustees approved the naming on September 8.



*W. Roy Poole and daughter, Dr. Anne Pepper Poole Worthington, pose with Dr. J. William Byrd following the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 26, 1998. During the dinner, Dr. Byrd announced that the College's administration building would be named the Poole Administration Building.*



## MOC Reunion of 20 Years

Jeff Daughtry and Mark Hobbs, both members of the Class of '78, say they cherish the time they get to spend with each other every year at the annual Convention of the Original Free Will Baptists.

The two former roommates graduated from Mount Olive College and went in different directions with their successful careers. Jeff decided to stay close to home and now is pastor of Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston. Mark, a Johnston County native who attended Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church, ventured far away from eastern North Carolina and now serves as an Air Force chaplain in Satellite Beach, FL.

Jeff says he looks forward to getting together with his old friend every year. They get a chance to rekindle their friendship and reminisce about unforgettable times shared at the College.

Jeff says he and Mark always make at least one trip to Lewis Drug Co. to

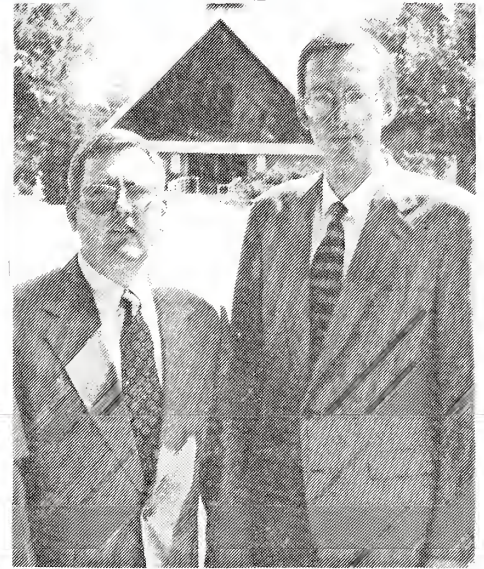
drink an orangeade. They also walk the campus checking out all the changes and remembering what it was like when they were students.

Mark says he has no trouble remembering Dr. Burkette Raper's speech to the student body at Fall Convocation. He says the talk helped him deal with being away from home for the first time.

"I came in afraid. Johnston county felt like a million miles away from home because I had never been anywhere," Mark said. "Mount Olive College is a place where people are free to learn and express and make mistakes and still be nurtured."

Jeff, now a member of the College Board of Trustees, says despite the physical changes of the campus, the College remains a special place to him. "It's just peaceful. It's a feeling of safety and security. We can walk under huge oak trees and reflect on 20 years."

He added, "Attending Mount Olive College was a life experience, and you



Mark Hobbs, left, and Jeff Daughtry take a trip down memory land during the 1998 Convention of Original Free Will Baptist at Mount Olive College.

want other people to have that same experience. It's more than going to class and learning. It's a lifetime learning experience.

## Coming Events at Mount Olive College

|                                 |                     |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, November 11          | 10:00 AM            | Campus Visitation Day for high school juniors and seniors.<br>(For more information, contact Tim Woodard at 1-800-653-0854).                                                 |
| Friday-Saturday, November 20-22 |                     | <i>An Unforgettable Weekend</i> , Alumni Homecoming.<br>(For more information, contact Dianne Riley at 919-658-2502).                                                        |
| Tuesday, November 24            | 11:00 AM            | Founders Day Service, Rodgers Chapel                                                                                                                                         |
| Thursday, December 3            | 8:00 PM             | Concert, Mount Olive College Choir, Rodgers Chapel                                                                                                                           |
| Tuesday, December 15            | 6:00 PM             | Christmas Buffet (Tickets to be purchased)<br>Lois K. Murphy Regional Center<br>(For information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and Planning 919-658-2502) |
| Saturday, December 19           | 10:30 AM<br>2:00 PM | Commencement Worship Service<br>Graduation Ceremony                                                                                                                          |

Mount Olive College invites you to our Sunday Buffet. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM until 2:00PM every Sunday in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. The cost is \$6.00 (includes tax, beverage, desert.)



## *The Elsie Brame and James Baxter Hunt Library Endowment at Mount Olive College*

by W. Burkette Raper, Director of Planned Giving

Mount Olive College did not just happen. It had its beginnings in the vision and commitment of leaders among Original Free Will Baptists who understood and appreciated their Christian heritage and who wanted to perpetuate their faith for future generations. Among the strong advocates for a program of Christian higher education for their church were James B. and Elsie Brame Hunt of the Rock Ridge community in Wilson County, North Carolina.

Mr. Hunt was a District Conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and a farmer; Mrs. Hunt was a public school teacher and librarian. Both were active members of Marsh Swamp Original Free Will Baptist Church which hosted the 1953 session of the State Convention. At this convention, one of the decisive moments in the history of Original Free Will Baptists occurred. The Rev. David W. Hansley, Chair of the Board of Christian Education, presented a proposal for the purchase of property in Mount Olive for the location of the college the Convention had authorized at its 1951 session. After prolonged and intensive debate, the purchase was approved by a narrow vote. The decision was destined to chart the course for the preservation and advancement of the faith of a noble people who more than two centuries earlier had established in eastern North Carolina the first Free Will Baptist Church in America.

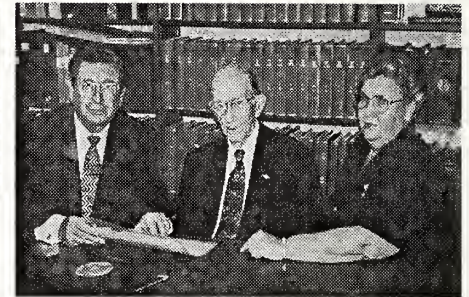
The Hunts were early advocates of the College and throughout its history have contributed generously to its support and provided extraordinary leadership for its development. For thirty-four years (1964-1998) Mr. Hunt served on the Board of Trustees, including fifteen years as Chair. During his tenure on the Board every building on the present campus was constructed. In addition, he stood at the forefront of those who made possible the advance-

ment of Mount Olive from a two-year to an accredited four-year college.

With the beginning of a building program on the new campus, there was need for a Campus Beautification Committee to work with the landscape architect. Mrs. Hunt was a charter member of the Committee and served as its secretary in establishing a master plan which set the framework for the subsequent development of the campus. Her devoted support for the College continued until her death in 1990.

Undergirding the affirmation and support of Mr. and Mrs. Hunt was their keen insight into the relationship between the College and the Church. The endowment in their name is designed to foster that relationship and to nurture the union between the College and Church which gave it birth.

Income from *The Elsie Brame and James Baxter Hunt Library Endowment Fund* is designed "for resources and services related to the Free Will Baptist Collection."



*James B. Hunt, center, is shown during a recent visit to the Historical Room of Moye Library at Mount Olive College. With him are W. Burkette Raper, Director of Planned Giving and Ms. Pam Wood, Assistant Director of Library Services. The three are reviewing a photo copy of a petition to the Court of Pasquotank Precinct (North Carolina) by the Rev. Paul Palmer, founder of the first Free Will Baptist Church in America. The petition requests recognition of a church that was meeting in the home of the Rev. William Burgess. The petition was necessary since any religious gathering in the Colony, other than the Church of England, was illegal.*

## *MOC Choir Sings at Washington National Cathedral*

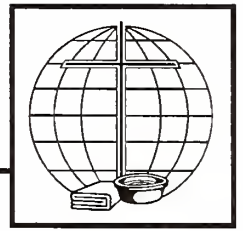
In early October, the Mount Olive College Choir was busy preparing for a highly anticipated concert at the prestigious Washington National Cathedral.

The choir performed October 18 as the prelude to the Sunday morning service. Dr. Alan Armstrong, Professor of Music, said he and the choir members felt honored to perform at the historical church located in Washington, D.C. Such concerts are by invitation only.

The 44-member choir presented a 30-minute a cappella program. Lawmakers and tourists were in the audience.

"We're excited because we consider it an honor to sing at the National Cathedral. That's a church that presidents have historically attended," he said. "I feel we have one of the finest choirs in the area, and I have no doubt our students reflect the caliber of professionalism that we have trained and instilled in them."

The choir's annual fall concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 3 at Rodgers Chapel, starting at 8 PM.



## Oak Grove Experiences Special Blessings

*submitted by Willa Dean Daughtry*

Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Newton Grove, NC, has experienced many special blessings and occasions since the beginning of 1998.

During the month of January, the church interviewed and hired a new pastor, John Massengill. He, his wife Joanie, and their son Dakota, are very devoted to God's work.

At the February Quarterly Business Session, Carl Warren, Jr. resigned as Chairman of the Deacon Board after many years of dedicated service to the church.

On March 16-18, 1998, the Rev. Glenn Mills conducted our Spring Revival. The membership and visitors enjoyed his messages and his unique deliverance, so much in fact he was asked to come back to conduct the Fall Revival, November 9-11, 1998.

During the spring and summer months, Oak Grove has also hosted several gospel singing groups — The Faithful Four, The Dixie Travelers, The Doug Roberts Group from Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, and Caananland from Princeton, NC.

On Sunday, May 17, 1998, our pastor was ordained by the Cape Fear Conference Ordaining Council. A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall following the service. The



*Oak Grove  
Original Free Will Baptist Church*

members of Oak Grove feel very humble that God has allowed us to have a role (albeit minute) in helping this young man begin his ministry.

On June 21, 1998, the youth of the church paid a very special tribute to the fathers and grandfathers of the church. The service consisted of Scripture reading, special reading and music. Children are a gift from God and should be trained and given a chance in the local church to develop and display their talents.

Peggy Williams has done a super job this year as Program Prayer Chairman of our Ladies Auxiliary. She has invited

guest speakers, provided us with special music, and served delicious food and refreshments. Our membership has grown and we are very appreciative to Peggy and the other officers of this arm of the church for their commitment and dedication in working to make our Auxiliary a big success.

In keeping with Oak Grove's reputation for the love of music, a beautiful new Kawai Classic Grand piano was purchased in June. On Sunday, July 26, 1998, a piano dedication service and concert were held at the church. Mrs. Cathy Warren Mason performed a wide selection of music that was enjoyed by church members and visitors from around the community. Cathy has deep family roots in our church and we feel honored she shared her talent with us. She is to be commended for using her musical talent to serve the Lord.

Our prayer here at Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church is that we continue to love and meet the needs of the membership and that God will open our eyes and hearts to show us how to serve the community and to spread the gospel.

(\*Oak Grove Free Will Baptist is located five miles out of Newton Grove, North Carolina on US Hwy 13.)

## 250th Annual Session of the Central Conference

**King's Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church  
Farmville, North Carolina**

**November 5, 1998**

**Registration — 9:00 AM**

**Session begins — 9:30 AM**

## Change in Meeting Date

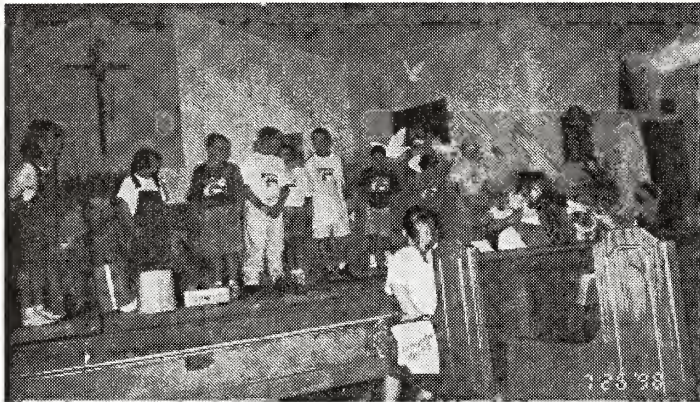
The Albemarle Union Meeting will meet for its November meeting on November 21, 1998, instead of the fifth weekend, or November 28. The meeting will be held at Malachi's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Columbia, NC.



## People & Events

### VBS Held at Stony Hill

On July 26, 1998, Stony Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Middlesex, NC, held their Vacation Bible School commencement. The theme for Bible School this year was "Get Hooked on Jesus." Everyone from the little children to the adults enjoyed themselves tremendously, from learning lessons from the Bible, to making crafts, to practicing for the commencement play.



### Ground Breaking Ceremony

In August Stony Hill Free Will Baptist Church gathered together to break ground for the future site of their Family Life Center. The Lord has blessed our church a great deal and our church family has grown very much. The extra room that this building will provide is very much needed.



### In Memoriam

Please remember the family of Janet Jones of Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church in Clayton. Janet's sister, Cyrethia Upchurch of Rolesville, passed away on September 30th following her battle with cancer. She was 55 years-old. Also, Billy Coats, the son of Powhatan member, Leona Coats, went to be with the Lord on September 30. We lift both families up in prayer during this time.

## Fall Bazaar, Homecoming and Revival at Powhatan

submitted by Rita Jones

September began with a baptism service on Sunday evening, September 6, at Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC. The seven being baptized were Caitlin and Dustin Howell, Ashley and Brit-tany Price, Lance Cavanaugh, Verna Greene, and Troy Parnell (the uncle of the two Price girls). It is always a blessing to witness the baptism of Christians.

A special congratulations to member Vicki Bagley who was honored with the 1998 Impact Award from the American Cancer Society. She received the award at a dinner wrapping up the Relay for Life Walk-a-thon for 1998. Her cancer fight is on-going and she is such an inspiration to us all.

September 12 was the Ladies Auxiliary Fall Bazaar. It was a beautiful day at Powhatan. There were lots of baked goods, cookies, and candies as well as lots of craft items. Donations ranged from hand-sewn quilts and baby blankets to home-grown apples, pumpkins, and colored corn. Thanks to all the donated food and drinks, the hot-dog meal earnings were all profit. The door prizes went as follows: Ceramic angel to Susan Moore (visitor); smoker grill to Larry Smith (Deacon); hammock to Sue Greene (member); and grand prize handmade quilt to Doris McLean (visitor). Congratulations to all winners.

Homecoming was enjoyed on September 20 with a message brought by the Rev. Lloyd Hargis about Christians' "home-going." He had preached a homecoming message

at Powhatan in the late 1980s concerning the prodigal son. Remember the Rev. Hargis' son, Michael, and daughter-in-law, Renee, who are expecting a child in November.

Homecoming continued with a shared meal, a memorial service by the Ladies



*Vicki Bagley showing her Impact Award and thanking the church for all the support she has received over the past years in her cancer fight.*



*Oma Ross and Ollie Brady look over a table of items at the Fall Bazaar.*



### *Fall Bazaar, Homecoming and Revival at Powhatan cont....*

Auxiliary to remember members who had passed on during the year, and an afternoon singing. Those who were honored during the Memorial Service were Lucille Benson, Oscar Benson, Bobby Bass, Dwight Stephenson, and Barbara Southerland. The service concluded with the singing provided by members of groups from Powhatan.

A week of revival followed under the leadership of the Rev. Jerry Stephenson. He began the week by saying he wanted to preach a real revival and not just some — 'joyed it — sermons, where the congregation doesn't get on fire for God. It was good to have him and Susie back with us for a week.

A special "thank you" to Roger Hill, chairman of our Deacon Board, and his wife Ginger for the donation in September of pew Bibles for reference use in the sanctuary.

Veteran's Day is celebrated November 11 and Powhatan would like to honor its veterans during the month. The Ladies Auxiliary plans to place honorary flags on the graves of veterans buried in the church cemetery. If anyone has information about military service of any past or present Powhatan member or relative, it may be submitted to Nikki Jones, c/o Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, 3468 Powhatan Road, Clayton, NC 27520, for inclusion in a booklet project she is completing.

**Found** — A white Bible was found in a class room at Powhatan and we would like to try to find its owner. The name inside is Jan Harbie Raybon and its says given by "Granny and Grand daddy" on 12/25/1968. The only other writing is a scribble of the year 1984-1968=16. No one is sure how long the Bible has been lost. If anyone can identify the owner, we would like to return it to them.

### *Sound Side Celebration* by Elaine Swinson

The clouds were shedding tears of joy as lighting bolts performed acrobatic feats against skies of gray. The thunder provided the sounds of an audience clapping their hands with appreciation for the unfolding events on the sandy shores beside the water.

Those fortunate enough to receive invitations were clutching the handles of their brightly colored umbrellas providing a kaleidoscope of color on the somber day. Their smiles radiated sunshine to give brilliance to the reverent service in which they were going to participate.

In a world which portrays young people as fast drivers, drug users, alcoholics, and generally immoral individuals, who have already purchased one way tickets to an eternal life of misery in the fiery depths of Hell, we were participating in a celebration of life for five young Christian girls and boys.

"Fresh" and enthusiastic from attending the General Youth Conference at Cragmont, the Rev. Harold Swinson felt a special closeness to the young people at Sound Side Free Will Baptist Church, Columbia, NC, as he began to minister to them during a week of revival services. Equally excited was the congregation that filled the church each night. It was clearly evident that the Spirit of Christ stretched His mighty arms to embrace every person in the sanctuary.

Sister churches came and shared in the fellowship of worship, their voices of song praising God with every note and lyric. There were no boundaries of denomination drawn, for all were in one accord in the presence of their Lord and Saviour. One visiting minister came at the invitation of a young girl attending the revival when she told him how wonderful the services had been. The light of Jesus was shining brightly, the "bushel" thrown aside to hide Satan instead.

Young people of assorted sizes and ages stood in little rows like lollipops clutching words to songs some could not read, but had etched in their minds. Their voices lifted in the sweet melody that could only come from the mouths of the young, tugging our hearts strings and bringing a mist to our eyes. Parents, daring not to breathe until the performance was over, were filled with both intense pride and profound relief that their children were serving the Lord in music.

Sometimes the sermons preached in a revival fall upon hearts of stone and ears that are deaf, but not so this week. Folks at Sound Side had been praying for this occasion and the fruit of their prayers were harvested as Preacher Harold gave the message each night from his heart.

Five young boys and girls presented themselves at the altar to give their hearts and lives to Jesus, breaking the pattern Satan had designed for them. Sounds of joy filled the room when each child gave their commitment to Christ as Preacher Harold prayed with them. As the week came reluctantly to a close on Friday night, a special request was made by the children and their parents that he return to baptize the new converts. Wild horses could not have dragged him away from such a wonderful invitation.

We gathered on that sandy shore, oblivious to the drops of joy falling around us from the sky, and silently giving prayers of thanksgiving as Katherine Cahoon, Jake Brickhouse, Col-



*The Rev. Harold Swinson prepares to baptize Jake Brickhouse. Other candidates are (l to r): Katherine Cahoon, Colleen Roughton, Charlotte Ambrose, and Andy Armstrong. Assisting was Tony Glass.*



## People & Events

### *Sound Side Celebration Cont....*

leen Roughton, Charlotte Ambrose and Andy Armstrong were immersed into the water symbolizing the death of their old life and their rebirth in the Lord. Assisting Preacher Harold, in his first opportunity to participate in a baptismal service, was the Rev. Tony Glass, who had been with Sound Side for several services and had grown to love them.

Assembling under a nearby shelter, Preacher Harold gave bread to each of the new converts to share with every person in attendance as a sign of the broken body of Jesus sacrificed for the sins of the world. As embraces and parting words of happiness were shared, the service came to an end, but the love of Jesus Christ lives on in the hearts of all who came. The blessed children are now clothed with the whole armor of God to protect them in the world of confusion that we all share. You won't find the coverage of their baptismal services in the headlines of the national newspapers, but you will find their names in the Lamb's Book of Life, where it really counts.

How about you! Has your name been penned in the book by God's own hand or is your name written in black on the roll book of Hell?

## Fall Festival November 7, 1998

Bake Sale and Craft Shop

10:00 AM till 2:00 PM      4:00 PM until

Horse Rides 10:00 AM till 1:00 PM

BBQ Chicken Lunch 11:00 AM till 1:00 PM

Cake Walk 4:00 PM

Action begins at 6:00 PM

Lots of Great Items

Many door prizes

**Ormondsville FWB Church**

**Dr. Don Ribeiro, Pastor**

## CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. Robert F. Burke is available as supply pastor and for revivals. He may be contacted at 1196 Jefferson Road, Pinetown, NC 27865 or call 252-927-2041.

Westside Church is seeking an Associate Pastor. For more information contact the Rev. Jeff Daughtry or send resume to: Associate Pastor Search Committee, Westside Free Will Baptist Church, PO Box 1141, Kinston, NC 28503, 252-522-4505.

The First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC, is seeking a youth pastor. Anyone who is interested please contact Worth Starling, 252-237-5541.

Edgewood Free Will Baptist Church is in need of a pastor. Please contact or send resume to: J. T. Trevathan, 5855 Carr Farm Road, Macclesfield, NC 27852; or Raymond B. Webb, 2011 NC 33 West, Greenville, NC 27834.

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# FESTIVAL '98 WITH FRANKLIN GRAHAM

Although Festival '98 ended on September 29, it is not over. Its results will be eternal, for hundreds of souls were born into His Kingdom, and the blessings of God flowed upon His people and the harvest will continue.

Participants in the Festival welcomed the opportunity to serve, some as ushers, some as counselors, others as supervisors, some as choir members, etc. The fellowship experienced as members from one hundred ninety-two denominations joined together in a joint effort was a blessing within itself. A member of one of the participating churches remarked, "It made me realize that my church is not the only church." Planning for the Festival brought the Christian community together, and there will be lasting effects.

The Rev. Ronnie Hobgood, pastor of Greenville First Free Will Baptist Church was involved in the Festival from the very beginning. He writes as follows:

"Festival '98 with Franklin Graham has been a life changing experience for me. In the early fall of 1996, Mr. John Grier of Greenville called me and asked me to attend a meeting concerning the need for revival in Greenville and the surrounding area. It is from that moment that I became involved in this revival movement. That week I began to attend a prayer meeting of concerned Christians for revival. I have been meeting with this prayer group on a weekly basis for over two years. This weekly time of prayer has been one of the greatest joys of Festival '98 for me.

After the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association accepted an invitation from our community for Franklin to come, I was asked to serve as Minister's Chair of the Festival. The objective of this committee was to identify those pastors who had expressed support for the Festival and share with them how they could lead their church to become involved and reap the greatest benefits. Also our objective was to help pastors who had expressed marginal interest in the Festival, but had not committed to it, to understand the objectives, the purpose, policies, and procedures of the Festival. We had 192 Churches that became participating churches. We had 33 Original Free Will Baptist Churches to become participating churches and many others supported the Festival.

One of the greatest benefits of the Festival for me and First Church of Greenville was the Christian Life and Witness Classes. These classes trained the laity how to share their faith. The results of these classes will help the future growth of the church. Over 4,000 persons enrolled in these classes. Festival '98 statistics are as follows:

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| Salvation    | 1352 |
| Assurance    | 353  |
| Rededication | 1360 |
| Inquiry      | 23   |
| Other        | 115  |

I give praise and thanks to the Lord for the great and mighty things He has done!

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# Prayer Pictures

Tom Wright

(Excerpt from *A Moment of Prayer* by Tom Wright, Lion Giftlines/ChariotVictor Publishing. Tom Wright is Dean of Lichfield Cathedral in England. His in-depth knowledge of the New Testament informs these inspiring meditations. Used by permission.)

Prayer is...faith asking.

Prayer is...hope waiting.

Prayer is...love embracing.

Prayer is...me being me in the presence of God being God.

Prayer is...God being in me being me.

Prayer is...the catalyst that means the experiment will work at last.

Prayer...opens the locked gate into the rose garden.

Prayer...helps us grow to our proper height, neither inferior nor superior.

Prayer...cleans the mirror in which I look at myself, so that I can see myself as others see me, or even (God help me) as God sees me.

Prayer...removes the spectacles of pride and fear through which I normally look at everyone else and helps me see them as God sees them.

Prayer...opens up the old wound which hasn't healed right, eases in the ointment, and helps it to heal at last.

Prayer...takes the tangled ball of wook and gently untangles it, without snapping it or cutting it.

Prayer...is the most human thing we can do — and the most divine.

I pray because...God always intended to bring humans in on the act, without letting them get proud in the process.

I pray because...I often need to tell someone things and there's no one else I can tell them to.

I pray because...I often need to be told things that no one else will tell me.

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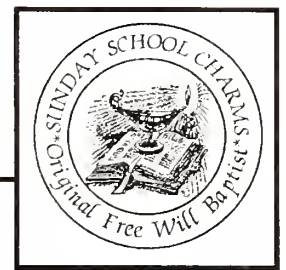
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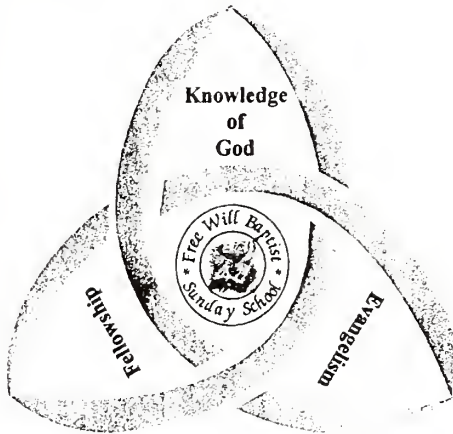
\*Does not include robes, hymnals, S.S. curriculum, or church supplies. Not valid on special orders or previously purchased items.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



## Memo

Your Sunday School Board has worked long and hard to revise the *Sunday School Handbook*. Please take advantage of this handbook made available for your use.



Following is an excerpt from the Handbook:

"The Sunday School Board Ministry is committed to assisting our churches in developing the knowledge and skills which will enable them to go, teach and make disciples in each of our communities."

"The ideas offered in this Handbook are not intended to be a cure-all but rather suggestions for church growth through the Sunday school. Please use the Handbook as an aid to improving your Sunday school and pray daily for your Sunday school workers. If your Sunday school is doing well and growing, keep on serving the Lord, but share your successes with others."

The first section of the Handbook contains information on Qualifications and Responsibilities of Sunday school teachers and officers. The second section is dedicated to organization in the areas of training and recruiting teachers and enrolling students. It is our hope that the Handbook will prove beneficial in some way to your Sunday school program.

These Handbooks may be obtained from the following address:

Original Free Will Baptist  
Sunday School Board  
PO Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513-0039

## Stop! Don't Throw That Away! Creative Uses of Last Quarter's Sunday School Curriculum

Mary J. Davis

(Excerpt from *Spur-of-the-Moment Games & Learning Activities* by Mary J. Davis, Accent Publications. Used by permission.)

### Charade Games

Things You'll Need: pieces of old or outdated curriculum, glue, paper.

Students glue pictures to pieces of paper. The pictures can be anything from animals to Bible characters, nature items, Bible story scenes, and everyday activities. This game can be kept in the classroom to play.

To play charades divide the class into two or more teams. Lay all the game pictures face down on a table. One member of Team #1 chooses a picture randomly. He tried to get his team to say what is on the picture by acting, not talking.

These game cards can be kept in the classroom to play at other times, also.

### Theme Posters

Things You'll Need: pieces of old or outdated curriculum, newsprint, scissors, glue, tape, crayons or colored markers, pencils, old magazines.

Have students work together on quarterly theme posters. They may use a group of old pictures of the Bible lessons on each poster. Depending on desired size, a poster can contain one story or a whole theme, such as the life of Joseph. It could be on the truths taught through the quarter with contemporary pictures reflecting how those truths can have personal, life application in their lives.

### Bulletin Boards

Things You'll Need: pieces of old or outdated curriculum, stapler, paper, crayons or colored markers, pencils, colored construction paper.

Give students free rein to design your classroom bulletin board. They may choose a Bible character, illustrate a psalm, or cleverly reproduce the lesson theme. They can staple pictures, lesson stories, and handwritten information onto the bulletin board.

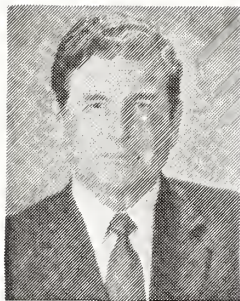
### Puzzles for the Preschool

Things You'll Need: pieces of old or outdated curriculum, construction paper, scissors, glue, glitter.

Glue a large picture to a piece of construction paper for strength. Dribble glue around the outside edges and sprinkle glitter on the glue. Then, cut the picture apart into puzzle pieces.

An envelope for the puzzle pieces can be made by folding a piece of newsprint in half and stapling the sides. Leave top open. Write on the envelope what the puzzle picture is.





# THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens*



"I am debtor" (Romans 1:14).

## *Remembering Those Who Have Befriended Us*

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

In our journey across the years, all of us can recall persons who have made a significant difference in our lives:

- Someone who encouraged us when we had lost hope;
- Someone who inspired us to succeed in life when we had low esteem of ourselves;
- Someone who gently guided us in making the right decisions when we were at a major crossroads in life;
- Someone who made a gift or loan to us when we were in need and had no one else to whom we could turn;
- Someone who taught us a principle in life which we have never forgotten;
- Someone who showed us compassion when we were deeply hurting;
- Someone who trusted us and whom we felt we could not disappoint.

One of our most rewarding experiences can be to remember these persons — whether they were parents, teachers, or friends — and find appropriate ways to say, "Thank you." A letter, card, phone call or visit would add joy and meaning to their lives. One of the most distinguishing characteristics of noble people is their sense of indebtedness to those who have helped to make them what they are.

### **Never Too Late To Express Gratitude**

For many senior citizens, those who contributed most to our lives may no longer be with us. Is there a way we can express gratitude for what these persons have done? Yes! A graphic example of this truth is seen in King David, the greatest of all the kings of ancient Israel.

After David had defeated his enemies and established the kingdom, he reflected back over the dangerous road he had traveled to reach this point in his life. He recalled his indebtedness to Jonathan, a loyal friend who risked his own life to save him from the wrath of King Saul. David remembered that in the climax of his danger, he had said to Jonathan, "There is only a step between me and death."

He could never forget the response of Jonathan: "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you," (1 Samuel 20:4 NIV). In one of the most tender human scenes in all the Bibles, these two friends entered into the covenant in which Jonathan said to David, "Do not ever cut off your kindness from my family."

Not long thereafter, Jonathan and his father were both killed in war and in the course of time David became king. Being the noble person he was, he remembered his covenant with Jonathan. "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" (2 Samuel 9:1, NIV), David asked.

When David learned that Jonathan had a lame son named Mephibosheth who was still living, he restored to him the land that had belonged to his grandfather Saul and assigned one of Saul's servants to manage the property. He also brought Mephibosheth to Jerusalem and gave him a place at the king's table for life. "I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan," David declared. What a beautiful and meaningful way to express appreciation for what deceased persons have done for us — show divine kindness to their family.

There are also other ways we can show our appreciation for these family members and friends who are no longer living:

- We can help someone else the way we were befriended, and let it be known what inspired us to do so;
- We can support a cause in which they believed and do so in their memory; or
- We can establish a memorial through a church, college or other charity that will perpetuate their faith and values to future generations.

We are all debtors to God and humanity. What truly distinguishes us is how we respond to our blessings. Nothing enriches our lives more than being thankful and expressing our gratitude in meaningful and tangible ways. I have never known a person who did not want to be appreciated. Would it not be well to make a list of those persons who have helped us in special ways and tell them so?

1998 (Vol. 4, No. 1) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

## DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Bernard of Clairvaux. *On the Song of Songs* in *The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics*. Introduction by Timothy P. Weber. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

### Introduction

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153) was born in Fontaines, near Dijon, France, in 1090. Though born to nobility, Bernard joined the monastery at Cîteaux in 1112. Cîteaux was founded by Robert Molesme, a Benedictine monk in Burgundy. The monks at Cîteaux were called Cistercians. They believed in hard work, discipline, and denial. Within three years, Bernard gained the attention of Abbot Stephen who put Bernard in charge of a new monastery at Clairvaux.

### Church Politics

In the twelfth century Bernard found himself involved in church politics. He served as secretary to the Synod of Troyes in 1128. He wrote an important rule for the Knights Templar who were one of the monk's military orders fighting in the Crusades. By 1130 he found himself supporting Innocent II as Pope rather than Anacletus. In 1145 one of Bernard's pupils, Eugenius III, became Pope and Bernard gained access to the highest levels of the church. Pope Eugenius III called upon Bernard to travel all over Europe to stir up support for the Crusades.

### Traits of St. Bernard

Bernard was noted for his self-discipline, iron will, and deep spirituality. Timothy P. Weber observes: "He was so certain of being right that few people thought of opposing him. He had a good nose for heresy and brought charges against some leading theologians, including Abelard at the Council of Sens in 1140" (161).

Bernard was also noted for his great tenderness. Hallmarks to his personal theology were "the humanity of Jesus and the suffering of the Virgin Mary" (161).

Two of his famous hymns exist today: *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* and *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*.

### Song of Songs

According to tradition, King Solomon wrote the Song of Songs. Bernard loved this book in the Bible and spent his life writing commentaries. Weber notes: "Bernard did not think for a minute that the Song of Songs was an erotic poem about human love. He thought the book was about God — and God's love for humanity" (162). The Song's consistent theme was "the power and glory of love" (163). Bernard was attracted to the longing after God, God's patience and God's mercy in waiting and receiving the sinner. Weber insists that Bernard "understood full well that the only thing that could sustain certain monks over the long haul was a growing relationship with God that was based on love, not fear" (163).

### Four Different Perspectives

A fourfold approach might be used to read the Song of Songs: *literal, allegorical, moral, or tropological*. Weber defines all four approaches. "In a literal interpretation, one looked for the basic, straightforward, historical facts of the text. In an allegorical approach, one sought to find beneath the text's words a deeper spiritual meaning. To understand a text morally was to determine its application to real life (what humans *ought to do* in light of the passage); while to understand it tropologically was to find in the passage a spiritual direction to pursue" (162).

### Conclusion

Bernard of Clairvaux believed there was something more wondrous than the love between a man and a woman, namely, the love between a human soul and God. In the midst of the twelfth century, with its passions of war, invading barbarians, need to reform, and renewal of monasticism, Bernard of Clairvaux sought to marry the human soul to God, the one true marriage of consuming love.

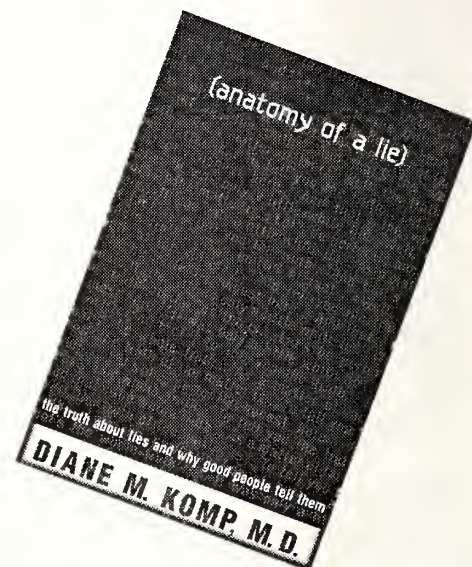
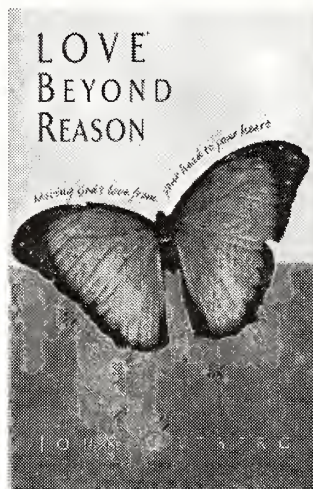
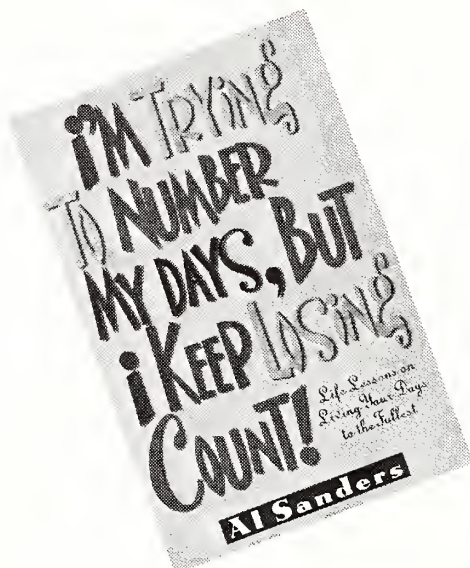
*On the Song  
of Songs*

St. Bernard  
of Clairvaux

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# The Free Will Baptist

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**December  
1998**



*Featuring*

*The Glory of  
Israel*

*Stifle Not the  
Fire*

*Where Is God's  
Rainbow?*

*Eighty-Sixth  
Annual Session  
(Part II)*



## Our Great Hope

In the midst of troubles we have often heard the statement, "Let's hope for a better day." Such a desire comes to us under certain adverse and trying times; and most of the time there comes a better day — a day when the storm has passed, or when the fever has left a suffering loved one.

In the bosom of each living soul, there must be a measure and perspective of hope, regardless of the circumstances. Without it — when all hope seems to be gone — then nothing much remains and the human will and purpose perishes.

*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words* defines hope as: "...favorable and confident expectation... It has to do with the unseen and the future, Romans 8:24-25. 'Hope' describes (a) the happy anticipation of good;... (b) the ground upon which 'hope' is based, Acts 16:19; Colossians 1:27, 'Christ in you the hope of glory;' (c) the object upon which the 'hope' is fixed, 1 Timothy 1:1."

Not let us consider the verses referred to in the above quotation:

"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Romans 8:24-25).

"And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers" (Acts 16:19).

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope" (1 Timothy 1:1).

Only one of these five verses refers to hope apart from God, or Christ. The damsel who was possessed with an evil spirit, in Acts 16, had served as a source of gain for her master, and they hoped that such would continue; however, when she was freed from the demon by the power of God, they lost their source of gain which they had "hoped" would continue. In this we realize that hope can be misplaced, or hope can be based on

lowly and corrupt purposes.

In Romans 15:13, Paul sums up the ministry of Christ when he writes:

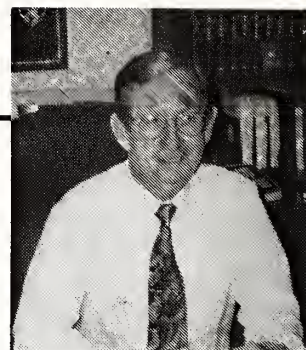
"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Dr. Alva McClain in his book, *Romans: The Gospel of God's Grace*, comments as follows on this verse: "Let us look at the first phase of this verse: 'The God of hope.' What is hope in the abstract? Nothing! It may mean anything. But the Christian hope is a definite thing; it is *the hope!*" It is in this kind of hope that we, as believers, should and must abound (be filled with.)

Our God and Saviour is a God of hope, not despair. When Jesus was born almost a thousand years ago, the world was in turmoil and unrest. Oppression was commonplace as the citizenry chafed under the burdens imposed by Rome. Yet, out of such darkness, a Light came forth — the Promised One came, just as the Father had promised. John tells us that He was "...the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (John 1:9). The Word, the Son of God "...was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). He came in the fullness of time, when God so ordained that it was the right time.

Because He came, hope and all the spiritual benefits of earth and Heaven became a reality. Our hope is not in weak and frail humankind; it is not this world that gives lasting hope; it is not the governments of the world that we rest our eternal hope in; it is not found in politicians or presidential powers. Our hope is in our God, Who made Heaven and earth, the One who "...so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

May this Christmas, as never before, truly remind us that He is our Great Hope.



C. H. Ockerman

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## NEXT MONTH

*January is  
Retirement Homes  
Month*

*December is  
Foreign Missions  
Month*



## The Glory of Israel

by the Rev. Mike Scott

All of us are familiar with the Christmas story. It has been told and retold a countless number of times and has been portrayed in songs, pageants and Nativity scenes. No matter how many times we hear it, we never tire of the wondrous account of the angel Gabriel appearing to a virgin maid to announce the birth of the Christ Child; of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem where there is no room for them in the inn; of the revelation to the shepherds concerning "...good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people"; of the glorious star that appeared in the night sky and of the wise men who followed that star until it led them to the place where He lay. These are the elements of the Christmas story that make this time of year so mystical and joyous.

But there are two additional figures in the Christmas story that have nearly been forgotten. We are all familiar with the star, the shepherds, the wise men, the angels, and the manger, but how many of us are familiar with Anna and Simeon. According to the Gospel of Luke, on the eighth day after the birth of Christ (when, according to the Law, the rite of circumcision was to be administered to all new-born Jewish males) Mary and Joseph brought Him to the temple. Anna and Simeon both visited the temple on a daily basis (Anna actually lived there), and on this particular day they both were directed by God to acknowledge that the redemption and the salvation of God has been revealed in this Baby. These were two devout and consecrated individuals who loved God with all of their hearts. They were keenly aware of the leadership of God within their lives, and it was this leadership that brought them to Mary and Joseph as they entered the temple.

Simeon had been promised by God that he would not die until "...he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:25-26). Upon seeing the Baby Jesus, he knew that God's promise had been fulfilled. He stated, "...mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (Luke 2:30).

Indeed, Christ was the salvation of God; and the hope of all humanity rested in that precious little Baby. In Him the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah were fulfilled and the sins of the ages were forgiven. He came as a light shining in darkness (John 1:5), and as the glory of the Father (John 1:14). He was truly the salvation of God.

It was Christ who made that night special. If He had not been born at that time in Bethlehem, the inn keeper's cattle shed might have remained empty, the shepherds would have gone on tending their sheep as they had done for generations and the wise men would have seen no star to follow.

Everything would have been normal. But, the birth of Christ made the ordinary extraordinary and set in motion a series of events which caused that night to be the most exciting in all of history, for it was the night in which God became flesh.

Our Christmases today have lost the wonder and the excitement of that first Christmas. We fail to recognize the fact that Christmas is about *Him* and that *He* is the One Who makes the season special. We celebrate the birth of Christ because in Him is the salvation of the world. In Jesus, God has done something marvelous and it should enrapture our souls and thrill our hearts. We worry about decorating the tree and the house in a tasteful manner, getting the turkey done on time, having the proper seating arrangement around the family table and making sure every gift is bought and is properly wrapped, while all the while we should be focusing on the Babe of Bethlehem Who came to bring light to a world that was plunged in darkness by the



*...the birth of Christ made the ordinary extraordinary and set in motion a series of events which caused that night to be the most exciting in all of history...*

hardness of the human heart and the callous condition of the cold conscious. May God forgive us for making Christmas anything less than a celebration of His birth.

Nearly 2000 years ago in the city of Bethlehem a Baby was born Who was Christ the Lord. On the eighth day of His life He was carried by His parents to the temple in Jerusalem. They were met by an old man who was there because of the divine intervention of God. He took the Baby in his

arms and looked upon His innocent face. The man knew that his purpose for living had been realized; he knew that he was looking upon the salvation of God. Now he could depart this world in peace because his eyes had beheld the light of the Gentiles and the glory of Israel. I pray that this Christmas we will look beyond the tree, the tinsel, and the turkey, and that we will look upon His precious face. Like Simeon of old may we behold Him who was born for our salvation.

(Mike is pastor of Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Vanceboro, NC. He also serves as an editorial assistance at the Free Will Baptist Press.)

## Stifle Not the Fire

by Frank R. Harrison, Campus Minister  
Mount Olive College

*"Do not put out the Spirit's fire" (1 Thessalonians 5:19, NIV).*

"Some sixty years ago I read about a pastor who had put a notice outside his church: 'This Church Will Have Either a Revival or a Funeral.' It had a revival! God does not answer many prayers — they are too locked-up in self-pity or aimed at personal benefit. He does answer desperate prayer! Lord, teach us to pray!"

—Leonard Ravenhill,  
*Revival — God's Way*

Can anyone doubt the need for a Heaven-sent, Holy Spirit, soul-searching Biblical revival in the church today? Look around at the church in our time. Where is the evidence of the divine fire and life-transforming experiences of individuals who have encountered the living God of all creation and glory and whose first priority in life is absolute and supreme loyalty to Jesus Christ and His way of life? Where is the church in America that is so feared by Satan and his cohorts in secular society that they call out the riot control troops because "...these that have turned the world upside down have come here also."

No longer does the world fear the church as a life-changing, transforming, revolutionary force that poses any threat to the secular way of life. How prophetic the

words of Dr. Elton Trueblood in one of his classic works, *The Company of the Committed*: "The major danger of our contemporary religion is that it makes small what ought to be large...we make religion relatively trivial, concerned with only a part of experience when it ought to be concerned with the whole of life. Whenever the church means merely a building on the corner, or a special kind of service, or a man with a round collar, the salt has already lost much of its savor. The church is looked upon as something to be neither seriously fought for nor seriously defended, but there can be no serious doubt that for millions the church does mean precisely that. It seems successful, but it is fundamentally unimportant because it is deemed to be marginal in its relevance. In so far as this is true, it is not only church members, but the church itself which requires a radical conversion." These words are perhaps more imperative for us to hear now than when they were written nearly 40 years ago!

Surely, the acid test of the vitality of a religion is to be seen in its effect upon culture that is changed and transformed by the individuals in that culture as they seek to live out their radical commitment to their faith and the value therein. The more we recognize the deep

similarity between our own culture and that of imperial Rome, the more we see the glaring significance of a great passage from that master literary work by the late Boris Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago*: "Rome was a flea market of borrowed gods and conquered peoples, a bargain basement two floors, earth and heaven, a mass of filth convoluted in a triple knot as in an intestinal obstruction. Dacians, Herulians, Scythians, Sarmatians, Hyperboreans, heavy wheels without spokes, eyes sunk in fat, sodomy, double chains, illiterate emperors, fish fed on the flesh of learned slaves ...all crammed into the passages of the Coliseum, and all wretched.

"And then, into this tasteless heap of gold and marble He came, light and clothed in an aura, emphatically human, deliberately provincial, Galilean, and at that moment gods and nations ceased to be and man came into being..."

For truly it is in Jesus Christ we see that great plan of God for all humanity. In Him who is fully divine and fully human, we see that perfect walk of obedience and the fruit of a life given totally to God for His divine purpose and His purpose alone. Through His death and Resurrection the gift of the Holy Spirit is given to enliven and



empower the church to be that witnessing, conquering fellowship in which He would dwell with His people as they carry out the great commission. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Indeed, the church went forth in an explosion of power as the Holy Spirit breathed upon the early disciples and upon the church. All the fires, beasts, prisons, and martyrdoms could not put out the fire of the Spirit! To those Christians in Thessalonica, Paul would write, "Do not put out the Spirit's fire" (1 Thessalonians 5:19, *NIV*).

But, alas, time has passed, memory has faded, the story has grown old for many in the church today! The fire has been shifted, and in some instances only a few lukewarm "has-been" coals remain! Beloved, has the church made camp somewhere between the Resurrection and Pentecost? Surely, the Holy Spirit and His glorious fire have not been withdrawn! No, much of the church has simply chosen to operate without the life-giving power and presence of the Spirit, thereby giving up its birthright given in the redemption secured for us by Jesus Christ!

Beloved, let us once again seek that path of prayer for revival that will bring that new visitation and life of the Spirit back into our midst as the "people of God!" Biblical revival comes on the wings of prayer! Revival can be defined in two words: "God came." God's coming is in response to prayer, desperate, pleading prayer!

The Welsh Revival was primarily a revival of prayer. Evan Roberts prayed continually for months for a wave of revival to come. So given to prayer was he that on one occasion his landlady "kicked him out" of his place of lodging because she

thought he was possessed, or at least mad, because of his intense and persistent praying for revival.

In 1801, after periods of intense prayer and seeking for the Spirit to be poured out on His people, God moved mightily upon the isolated settlement of Cane Ridge, Kentucky, and the working of a great revival was underway with the coming of the Spirit described by one eyewitness as the sound and roar of Niagara as the supernatural power seemed to pervade the masses of humanity that had gathered to seek revival.

What God has done in the past, He can do again when His people are desperate in prayer for His Holy Presence. Revival is the revitalization of the Church for a divine attack on any secular society. Revival is the moving of God upon His people to renew them, to enlist them, empower them to be bold witnesses of Jesus Christ and His

Kingdom!

Let prayer be always in the hearts and on the lips of His people as they seek His righteousness and His glorious life-giving Presence with open, confessing hearts, praying always for His coming as a Spirit of fire, to heal, cleanse and renew His Church!

Again, let the words of Leonard Ravenhill speak to us: "Jesus is coming for a bride, not for a widow, not for a sick church. He is worthy to receive honor and glory and power now and forever. Against this present world's onslaught of iniquity, the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. Here the lame takes the prey and to those who have no might, He increaseth strength. He who heard the cry of Elijah from Carmel, and of Jonah from the belly of a fish will hear our cries for mercy and revival. 'Call upon me and I will answer thee.' We plead or we perish!" Amen!

## *Where Is God's Rainbow?*

*Written by Elaine Swinson on behalf of her sister-in-law,  
Neita Swinson Todd*

The sun came up that morning touching the late roses still blooming and glistening on the dew-touched ground. I could hear the early sounds of mama stirring in the kitchen as I began my daily rituals. Before I could turn around twice, it was time to leave for work! I hurried out the door, patting my dog, Lindy, grabbing my lunch and purse, and bidding Mama and Daddy a hasty, "see you later." In a matter of seconds I was in my car heading down the road on which I had traveled each morning for a long time. This, however, turned out to be a day which would fall very short of being ordinary.

After traveling a short distance, it became very evident that the left side of my body just would not cooperate with the silent commands I was issuing. Even as I turned my car back in the direction of home, where the safety of my family beckoned me, my mind was wrestling with the possibilities of the unknown.

One hour turned into the next as I faced the clinical administrations of trained medical personnel, searching for the *rhyme* or *reason* my problem was occurring. Fear of the uncertainty lodged in my heart. Webster defines a tumor as "an abnormal mass of tissue," but I described it as a terrifying invasion of my body over which I have no control. As days spilled over into each other, the tests continued and the horror story lengthened. Five tumors

in all, but with a new dimension — malignant cancer.

Where was the "rainbow" God promises those who believe in Him! More to the point was, "Why me, Lord; I have had too many mountains to climb." I searched, with no avail, for a place to hide. Each new day brought a whole new array of fears and doubts, threatening to choke me. I had lost my place in the puzzle of life, laying to the side waiting to be found. I confess that beyond my faithful family and a few friends, I believed myself to be of no value to anyone else. My life, having been filled to the brim with mistakes and wrong turns, was empty of the one thing I needed the most — to be loved and accepted by those who shared the world with me.

Then the telephone began to ring, cards filled the mailbox, visitors began to arrive in steady streams and, most important of all, the prayers began unceasingly from friends, family, and perfect strangers — all for me. My daughter, Melinda, shared her grief with friends and family in Kansas, who sent me messages of comfort. Special prayer for me was requested by my brother, the Rev. Harold Swinson, at the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in Mount Olive, and at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, where he serves as pastor. The churches where my father and mother, the Rev. Luther and Peanie Swinson, had served included my name on their prayer lists. My sisters, Alicia and Ann and my sister-in-law, Elaine, requested prayer for me where they worked. My extended family asked for prayer at their churches and at their work places. Prayers for me have been lifted to God from hundreds of people that I have never met.

The *rainbow* I couldn't see was there all the time in the hearts of Christians in all parts of the country. I realized the, "why me, Lord," should have been "why not me, Lord." It has taken an illness to make me realize that God provides exactly what is needed for all Christians, if they will have faith in Him. I have seen the face of God in everyone who has visited me and I have heard His voice in all who have called, and I have felt His presence in all the prayers that have been prayed for me.

My cancer has not disappeared as a result of these prayers and there is good chance it may continue to grow. My fears have not completely disappeared and some days will be worse than others. However, I know now that I am not alone and whatever may come I will have the strength of God and my Christian family and friends to hold my hand. Although "thank you" seems inadequate to explain how deeply everyone's expressions of concern are appreciated, it is from the bottom of my heart that I say them to each of you today. Please continue to lift my life up in prayer, that I may be able to accept whatever tomorrow may bring with dignity, knowing that God will never forsake me.

## *A Place Called Hell*

*by Lucy Barnes*

I've been to Hell and back,  
it's not very pleasant.  
I've seen rich beautiful people,  
and poor ugly peasants.

It's very hot,  
to hot for me.  
I feel sorry for those people,  
that have to burn all eternity.

Most of them knew about Jesus,  
they just didn't follow.  
They went their own way,  
and jumped in a lake that was to shallow.

I'm so glad that I got a second chance,  
cause most people only get one.  
Don't beg for another chance when you're in  
trouble,  
all you need to know is that Jesus is God's only  
son!

Please believe me,  
it's not a pretty sight.  
You do not want to go there,  
I am telling you with all my might.

People need to know that there is a place,  
a place called Hell.  
And that it's not a lie,  
or what some people call a tall tale.

It is the worst place,  
the last place that you would want to go.  
If you don't know Jesus and follow Him,  
then there is only one place for you to go,  
and that is a place called Hell.

(Lucy Barnes is a ninth grader at Northside High School. She is a member of Sidney Free Will Baptist Church, Belhaven, NC.)



# *Eighty-Sixth Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists The Call To Witnessing*

## *Part II*



*Those in attendance at the annual mission rally.*

## **The 1998 Mission Rally**

The Wednesday evening mission rally began with the song of fellowship, "I Love You With the Love of the Lord." The Rev. Harold Jones, Foreign Missions director, welcomed the gathering of more than 700 Original Free Will Baptists to the service. The Rev. Al Markuson, newly-elected Home Missions director, brought greetings from the department of Home Missions. The gospel group, Called Out, presented several messages in song. Mrs. J. E. Timmons, widow of former missionary to Mexico, the Rev. J. E. Timmons, spoke to the gathering, expressing her appreciation for the support of the work in Mexico, especially concerning the work of the short-term missionary teams.

The program consisted of the testimonies of some of those who have served on the short-term teams. Each one shared some special experience on the team and what it meant to them to have such an opportunity. They then joined together in the presentation of a medley of songs. The missions challenge was given by the Rev. Wayne King, chairman of the Board of Foreign Missions. Emily Perry, Misty Jones, and Debby Gray then sang (in Spanish), "Alcanzar El Mundo." The closing song was sung by Called Out.

The special mission offering totaled

\$24,073.05 for Foreign Missions and \$17,289.91 for Home Missions.

## **Thursday Morning Season**

After congregational singing, the Rev. Mrs. Carlee Stallard, gave the devotional reading and led the Convention in prayer.

Reports were given as follows: the Chaplain's Commission by the Rev. Adrian Grubbs; the Ministerial Association, the Rev. Harold Swinson, President; Woman's Auxiliary, Mrs. Carolyn Jernigan, President; Carolina Bible Institute, the Rev. Rudy Owens, President; Camp Vandemere, Mr. Aldric Gaskins, Director; Historical Commission, Dr. Michael Pelt, Chairman; League Convention, Ms. Becky Jo Sumner.

The Cragmont Report was also given during the Thursday morning session. Director John Williams reported, stating that there had been an increase in attendance at the summer camps, and that more than fifty decisions were made for Christ during the session. He also reported an increase in attendance during the Spring and Fall.

(Note: Complete reports of all the Ministries, Standing Boards and Commissions are found in the Annual Report Booklet. Copies may be obtained from the Convention Headquarters, PO Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513).

The Obituary Committee, consisting of the Revs. Craig Simmons, Mott Batchelor, Jacky Raper, and Philip Boykin, gave its report, citing the names of those ministers who had passed away. As part of the program, Mott Batchelor very effectively sang, "Nearer My God, to Thee."

## **Morning Worship Service**

After special music, the Rev. Leon Grubbs introduced the Rev. Ray Wells, Convention President, to bring the message.

After expressing his feeling of nervousness, the Rev. Wells read the following texts as a basis for his message:



*The Rev. Ray Wells*



"And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth. But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew. And a maid saw him again and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them. And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou are a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto. But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom you speak. And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept" (Mark 14:66-72).

"But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice,..." (Acts 2:14).

"We all know the story of Peter's denial — how he professed to love His Lord, but denied Him — then how he became a major spokesman for God. With boldness he proclaimed the story of Jesus. We need holy boldness," the Rev. Wells declared. He then gave three things we as Christians have to do.

1. Stop being ashamed of who we are, stating that there are too many "undercover" Christians ... to many groups promoting only their cause, and many withdrawing unto themselves.

2. Be what you are; live the life of a Christian.

3. Stop worrying about the consequences of being a Christian — don't be afraid to take a stand. "Consequences may follow and we may become objects of ridicule, but faithfulness to Him is what matters. You can't witness if you are afraid," he stated.

The Rev. Wells final challenge was the challenge to "Holy Boldness."

## Other Reports

Following the morning worship service, the Convention adopted the report of the Resolutions Committee, took care of its miscellaneous business, and concluded with the transfer of

the gravel from President Ray Wells to the newly-elected president, the Rev. Leon Grubbs.

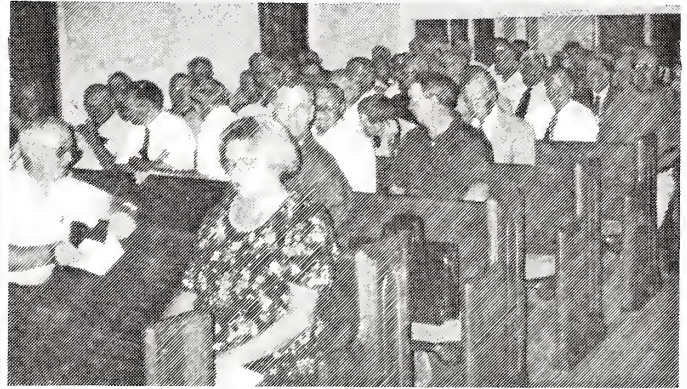
Total attendance during the Convention was 503. (This does not include those who attended the 125th Anniversary Celebrations of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation on Tuesday evening and those who attended the Mission Rally on Wednesday evening.)



*The Rev. Everette Harper, pastor of Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC, served as pianist during the Convention.*

# Layman's League Meetings

The Central Conference Layman's League meet on September 14, 1998, at Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, Winterville, NC. The men gathered in the fellowship hall for the evening meal and then assembled in the church for the regular devotional service and business meeting. Nearly 150 were in attendance.



*There is evidence of a good attendance at the Central Conference Layman's League.*



*Waiting to enter the church for the service.*

The State Layman's League meet on November 6, 1998, at Harrell's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, near Snow Hill, NC. Approximately 75 were in attendance for this state meeting.



*Gathering for the business meeting.*



# Camp Vandemere Our Family Enrichment Center

## Light and Truth

The theme verse for Camp Vandemere (Psalm 43:3) contains the phrase, "Send out thy light and thy truth...." Great insight can be gained by examining these two concepts:

### Light

In the Bible light is not just the opposite of darkness, it is that which dispels and drives away sin and iniquity from this dark and sin-cursed world. This is why John states that Jesus came as "...the light (shining) in darkness..." (John 1:5). His life drove away the darkness of rebellion and iniquity and replaced it with the righteousness and holiness of God.

Camp Vandemere attempts to do the same thing. We see our ministry as bringing light to bear upon the darkness that is within the lives of people. It is our prayer that those who come to the camp will experience the warmth and the radiance that is Christ, and through a personal relationship with Him they will enter into the true light of God and will live for Him from that very moment.

We really don't know how to

appreciate something until it is taken away from us, and if the light found in Christ were removed from this world, the result would be devastating. Christ lives at Camp Vandemere and through its ministry His light is sent forth as lives are changed through the transforming power of God's grace.

### Truth

The Bible declares that truth is found in three places: The Scriptures (John 17:17), the Son (John 14:6), and the Spirit (John 16:13). God's truth is ultimate, unchanging and uncompromising. Those who dare to tamper with His truths find themselves on the receiving end of His swift and serve judgment. At Camp Vandemere we are committed to fully and faithfully represent the truth of God as He has revealed it.

Our directors are men and

women of God who are dedicated to soul winning and who have a burning desire to share the truths of God's Word with the young people who attend. Each camper is given the opportunity to respond to these truths and to apply them to their individual lives.

You, too, can be a part of the ministry of Camp Vandemere and can join us as we send forth His Light and Truth. By supporting the camp with your prayers and your financial contributions, you can provide an invaluable means of help. Also, by sending us your young people you are not only making a difference in their lives, but you are making a difference in the life of your church and your community as these young people return to faithfully serve God and His kingdom. Together we can continue to help Camp Vandemere send out God's **Light and Truth**.

### Camp Manager Needed

Camp Vandemere is seeking a full-time camp manager. The applicant should be excited about the ministry of Camp Vandemere and should be able to work well with large groups of people. Duties include supervising the staff, representing the camp at conferences and conventions, taking reservations and overseeing the maintenance of the camp. If interested please contact: The Rev. Owen Arthur, 660 Half Moon Road, New Bern, NC 28560, (252) 633-1185 or the Rev. Tim Heath, 601 Turkey Point Road, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460, (910) 327-2850.

### We Are Moving!

**Wilson Bible and Bookstore**  
is moving

January 1, 1999

to Gateway Plaza Shopping Center  
Corner of Forest Hills Road &  
Highway 264 (Raleigh Road)  
Between Winn Dixie and Kmart



## FOREIGN MISSIONS

### *December is Foreign Missions Month*

This month is vitally important to the Foreign Missions program. Giving has been far below our budget during this church year. This strains what reserves we have. **And they are almost depleted. Unless we have an exceptionally good month in December, we will have a difficult time in meeting the needs of our fields.**

I sincerely ask you to join us in prayer concerning this and send a special gift to Foreign Missions during this month to insure the continuation of the work we have in India, Nepal, Mexico, Bulgaria and the Philippines.

**Friends, this need is real.** Please give to make the Christ of Christmas known to children and adults in other lands. You can give no greater gift than this.

### *Update on Willem Van Der Plas*

Willem had back surgery in Holland on November 9. The surgery was successful and without complications. He will have several weeks of physical therapy before he will be able to return to Bulgaria. Lydia is with him and is doing fine. Please pray for his complete recovery.



### *Short-Term Team 1999*

The final deadline for joining a Short-Term Team in 1999 was November 16. If you did not sign up for 1999, now is the time to think about the year 2000. Please join us in prayer for the teams that will minister in Mexico and the Philippines next year.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 28, 1999

### **Annual World Missions Conference**

College Hall, Mount Olive College

5-8 PM

Light Meal Served

Special Guest

Steve Chamblin

and

YWAM Team

(Youth With A Mission)

Theme:

The World Church Involved in World Missions  
Plan to attend and bring your Youth!

MARCH 28, 1999

### **Foreign Missions Annual Telethon**

Theme:

Things That Really Matter to God

Goal 1999:

A total of \$135,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday  
Pray Daily for this Goal.



## Newsletter from India and Nepal

submitted by Dr. E. M. Lall



*The Convention group 1998. Wherein some ladies delegates from the circuits also participated.*

The annual convention of India and Nepal was held October 1, 1998, at Bareilly. Besides being various hectic activities and meetings as scheduled in the program, the following were the highlights:

From the reports for the year 1997-



*A view of concluding service of our Convention.*

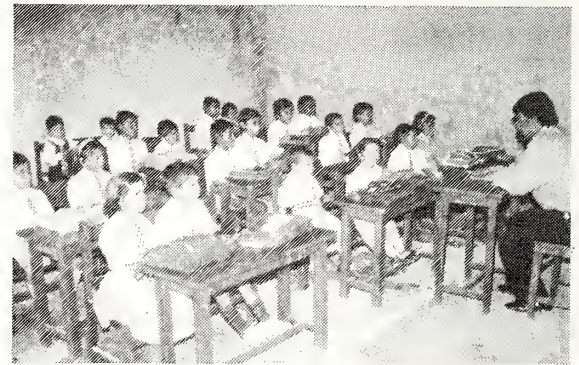
98, which were presented by each minister and deacon of their respective circuits, it was apparent that work of evangelization among the masses is very encouraging inasmuch as that task being hazardous has been a burden upon the heart of our workers. The entire world is looking for a surprise change after the year 2000 and so our people carry the burden of the Cross to accomplish as best as they can. It is also evident that the spirit

of the Lord is working and the Word is being received by those who wish to have the blessings under His umbrella. Tremendous interest is seen specially among the down trodden who have understood that they can have peace and salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. I had an occasion to hear the witness of a Muslim lady in front of her husband and the family members that she likes "Jesus Christ" much more than her own. She also said that she will not let a long time pass until she embraces the religion of Jesus Christ. Such a witness and many other alike are encouraging to the church.

The entire participants of the convention stood for love and unity for the cause of Christ. They have assured their counterparts, the Free Will Baptist in North Carolina, that the concern in the field here has never been money from them. A comparative study will reveal that indigenised achievements are no less than thought of. The goal of self

support is being acted upon and in the midst of convention two congregations of Ahladpur and Bharkuiyan have declared that their ministers should be treated as self-support from October, 1998.

Expansion of our church work was fully shared by the people and much concern was shown to spread our



church work in the outskirts in the capital of Delhi. The Rev. J. E. John of Delhi took up this responsibility. The proposal of the Field-Director, the Rev. William Samuel, was accepted to adopt an urban congregation into our faith at Garh on Bareilly-Delhi highway about 200 kilometers from Bareilly, presently under the leadership of Dr. M. Charan. October the 18 has been set for the purpose.

It was unanimously decided that each congregation should establish a school which will help make the local church self supporting.

In the wake of utter disappointment, rigorous indigenised efforts were responsible to bring up the two English medium schools at Rudrapur and Agra this year, much beyond imagination. The grass-root level work has been done and it is expected that the enrollment from the ensuing school session will help support both the congregations.



*The Council of Ministers was held on October 3, 1998 in the midst of Convention.*



*Newsletter from India and Nepal Cont....*

Nevertheless, the Lord is leading our church denomination in India and Nepal which is gaining momentum and is being recognized as the living church. In the wake of Rudrapur upgraded as full district headquarters, the Judiciary was established on 4-10-98. Only our minister at Rudrapur, the Rev. Manoj K. Charan, was invited to lead in prayer at the time of inauguration by the Chief Justice of the High Court, which also appeared in newspapers.

One more congregation and school has come up at Tilhar under the leadership of Deacon Vishwas Samuel Sharma who was converted from staunch Hindu family some years ago. The local people made the school with thatched and we provided a water pump. We hope that this school will rise and support

itself in time to come.

An extensive tour was organized to inspect the entire work in the country of Nepal October 5, 1998, and it was observed that our labours are fetching good results. Though there are many problems in that country, yet our workers there are doing their best in proclaiming the message of salvation to the people. I was surprised to see that many political leaders accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and are working for our church to grow. The outbreak in that country two years ago gave the Nepalis the liberty to worship in any faith they like. The Government control so far, as religious involvement by people, is becoming



*Rudrapur was upgraded as the full fledged district and the courts of justice were installed there on April 10, 1998. Our minister of Rudrapur the Rev. Manoj K. Charan led in prayer prior to inauguration by the Chief Justice of High Court.*

liberalized. We hope that we will have a greater opportunity to work in Western Nepal to save people for eternity.



*Tilhar Church and school inaugurated on December 10, 1998.*



*Tilhar school children.*



*Work in the country of Nepal*



*Work in the country of Nepal.*



**MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE**  
*Christmas Buffet &  
Music by the  
Mount Olive Community Ensemble*

*Tuesday, December 15, 1998 • 7:00 PM*  
*Lois K. Murphy Regional Center*

For five years the Christmas Buffet has been a highlight of the Christmas season. Join us for a delicious dinner and a wonderful program of Christmas music.



**Reservations are requested by December 7.**

\$10.00 adults, \$6.00 children 12 and under, (prices include beverage and tax).

For reservations, contact The Office of Institutional Advancement and Planning at (919) 658-2502.

**DECEMBER EVENTS**

**Mount Olive College Concert Choir Fall Concert**

**Thursday, December 3 • 8:00 PM**  
**Rodgers Chapel**

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, presents its fall program of sacred and secular classical works, spirituals, and anthems.

**North Carolina Symphony "Christmas Pops"**

**Tuesday, December 8 • 7:30 PM**  
**College Hall**

Sing along to favorite carols and listen to popular holiday music. There will also be a few surprises and some light-hearted touches, from Santa hats to bass twirls. Bring the whole family to this celebration. Tickets are \$16.00 for adults, \$13.00 for senior citizens, and \$5.00 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

**Graduation Day**  
**Commencement Worship Service**  
**Graduation Ceremony**

**Saturday, December 19**  
**10:30 AM • Rodgers Chapel**  
**2:00 PM • College Hall**

## ***Volunteer Honored for 36 Years of Service***

Mount Olive College honored Borden F. Howell at the 1998 Wayne County Dinner for 36 years of continuous leadership as the local church chairman for Spring Hill Free Will Baptist Church. Mr. Howell is the only chairman Spring Hill Church has had since the dinners began in 1963.

Due to health reasons he had advised the church that 1998 would be the last year he would be serving as chairman. As an expression of their love and appreciation for his leadership, 42 of the 57 Bridge Builders from Spring Hill Church were given in his honor. Mr. Howell said, "I have enjoyed working with Mount Olive College all these years, and I really don't want to give it up, but I believe it is now time to allow someone else to have this honor."



*Mr. Howell, holding the plaque presented by the College, is pictured with his wife, Hilda, Dr. W. Burkette Raper (left), Director of Planned Giving, and Dr. J. William Bryd (right), President of the College.*

## ***Plans for New Curriculum***



*Mount Olive College professors make plans for a new curriculum so students can earn a minor in Christian Education. A course entitled Introduction to Christian Education will be offered during the spring semester on Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:30. The Rev. Frank Harrison, Dianne B. Riley, Dr. David Hines, and the Rev. Tyanna Day discuss curriculum possibilities.*

## **The 16th Annual Basketball CHURCH NIGHT Saturday, January 23, 1999**



**Lady Trojans**

**vs.**

**Limestone College**

**5:30 PM, College Hall**

**Trojans**

**vs.**

**Limestone College**

**7:30 PM, College Hall**

### **Church Involvement**

There will be a free throw and 3 pt. competition during half-time of the men's game — designate your "best shooter" to compete!

Competition will be divided into 3 groups:

Grades K-8, Grades 9-12

Out of High School (any age — even Pastors).

***Special recognition to the church with  
the largest attendance!***

Special Tickets \$1.00

To reserve your tickets,  
call the Admissions Office today!

**(919) 658-2502**

**(800) 653-0854**



# December 1998

| SUN | MON | TUE                                                                                                                    |    |
|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 29  | 30  | 1<br>Home Missions and Evangelism<br>Board Meeting                                                                     | 2  |
| 6   | 7   | 8<br>North Carolina Symphony<br>"Christmas Pops"<br>College Hall, Mount Olive<br>7:30 PM                               | 9  |
| 13  | 14  | 15<br>Christmas Buffet and Music by the<br>Mount Olive Community Ensemble<br>Lois K. Murphy Regional Center<br>7:00 PM | 16 |
| 20  | 21  | 22<br><br><i>Winter Begins</i>                                                                                         | 23 |
| 27  | 28  | 29                                                                                                                     | 30 |

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES

Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

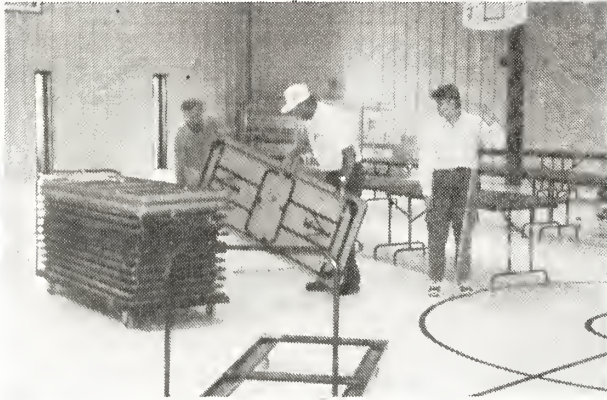
To Remember \_\_\_\_\_

| THU |                                                                         | FRI                                                                                               |  | SAT                                                                                                                          |  |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|     | <b>3</b><br>MOC Concert Choir, Fall Concert<br>Rodgers Chapel, 8:00 PM  | <b>4</b>                                                                                          |  | <b>5</b><br>Christmas Open House<br>Bible and Bookstores<br>Ayden, Kinston, Wilson,<br>& New Bern<br>9:00 AM — 5:00 PM       |  |
|     | <b>10</b>                                                               | <b>11</b>                                                                                         |  | <b>12</b>                                                                                                                    |  |
|     | <b>17</b>                                                               | <b>18</b>                                                                                         |  | <b>19</b><br>MOC Graduation<br>Worship Service — 10:30 AM<br>Rodgers Chapel<br>Graduation Ceremony — 2:00 PM<br>College Hall |  |
|     | <b>24</b><br>Bookstores Open<br>FWB Press Closed<br>Headquarters Closed | <b>25</b><br>FWB Press Closes<br>Bookstores Closed<br>Headquarters Closed<br><br><i>Christmas</i> |  | <b>26</b><br>FWB Bookstore Closed                                                                                            |  |
|     | <b>31</b>                                                               | <b>1</b>                                                                                          |  | <b>2</b>                                                                                                                     |  |



## Recent Volunteers Assist Children's Home

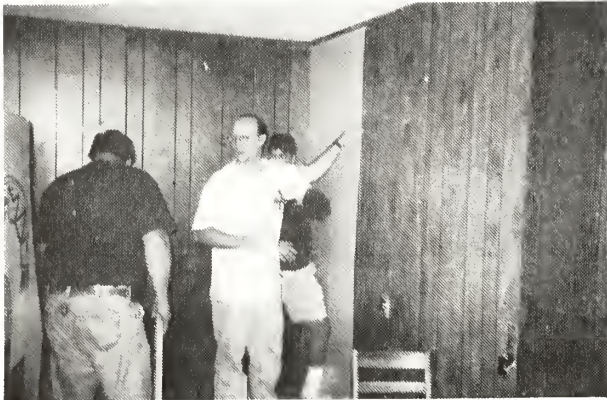
During the year we have volunteers come to the Home and provide assistance. We would like to thank each group for the labor they provide. The following are the most recent.



*Glaxo Wellcome Employees Work Group of Zebulon, NC. They helped setup Whitley Center as the Children's Home hosts the Mount Olive College Nash County Dinner (pictured left).*



*Glaxo Wellcome Employees Work Group of Zebulon, NC. Cleaned and organized the upper level of our storehouse (pictured right and lower right).*



*Sunday school class from Stoney Creek FWB Church doing repairs to the Recreation Center.*



## Christmas at the Children's Home

From our Home to Your Home — we take this opportunity to wish you a very **Merry Christmas.**



Christmas is a wonderfully busy time of the year. A time of excitement runs through our campus as children hurry here and there. It is a time we are most thankful for all you do so that the children can experience the joy of "Peace on earth and good will toward men."





# Christmas Cheer

*Help make possible a gift to all of our ministers age 65 and over during this Christmas season.*

The Christmas season is upon us and all over the world people will be celebrating the birth of Christ Child. This is a special time of year and we all look forward to sharing time with family and friends. Part of our joy comes from giving and remembering others with gifts, cards and the greetings of the season.

It always warms your heart to receive a card or greeting from friends that you have known through the years but no longer see on a regular basis. As time passes, our lives change and we move from one place to another, but it is always good to keep in touch with people we have known through the years to let them know that we have not forgotten them, and the memories we share are important to us.

Over time the ministers who have faithfully served the congregations of our Convention have changed pastorates and they are no longer an active part of our church family. While many of these men are still working hard in their capacities as pastors, there are some who, because of advancing years or disability, are unable to attend meetings, conferences and Conventions as they did in years past. Because we do not see them as often as before there is a danger that we may forget them and the work they have done.

In an effort to acknowledge these men who have given so much to our people and church, The Ministers Program instituted the Christmas Cheer Program. The original plan was to honor our ministers, age 75 and over, at this special time of year by sending them Christmas greetings and a gift of \$100. Because of the generosity of our churches,

auxiliaries and other organizations this year, we are lowering the threshold to age 65. What this means is that every minister age 65 and over will receive a gift from you, their church family, in the amount of \$100.00. This gift, while sent to them by the Minister's Program, is given on behalf of all the churches in our Convention who by their generosity have supported the Program and made this possible. The greeting acknowledges your support of the Minister's Program as the only way we are able to fund this program.

The responses that we receive are heartwarming. One minister writes to thank you by saying, "It means so much to be remembered by my denomination," and another says, "This gift will really come in handy and I sure can use it, thank you."

You make this possible by your support of the Minister's Program.

We hope that you will include the Minister's Program in your budget and that you or your auxiliary will consider sponsoring at least one of these men with a special gift of \$100 or more. Some churches are able to do more and we would like to encourage them to do this at this special time of year. Each year the Minister's Program steps out in faith to make Christmas Cheer a reality because without your support we could not afford the cost. Thank you in advance for all that you do and may all the blessings of this season be yours.

To participate please send your gift to:

**The Minister's Program**  
The Rev. Don Fader, Director  
PO Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513



## Operation Christmas Cheer

**Can We Count On You?  
Help the Minister's Program  
Give a gift of \$100 to all Ministers  
Age 65 and up**

**If you are a minister age 65 and have not yet received  
your enrollment for the Christmas Cheer Program  
please contact Donald Fader at 252-523-5800**





## Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church Gets New Pastor

Pleasant Grove Church has been spiritually blessed through many years to have Godly men to fill the pulpit. In February, 1998, God sent us another good pastor, the Rev. Alvin Keener, who has been a great blessing to the church.

The Rev. Keener, age 43, was born and raised in Jessup, Georgia. His wife, Lillian, better known as Lil to our church family, is very active in the church.

The Rev. and Mrs. Keener have three sons who have adjusted well with the youth in the church and community.

The Rev. Keener graduated from the FWB Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1987.

He pastored in Petal, Mississippi, for two years and in Cove City, North Carolina, for nine years.

Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church honored the couple in September on their 25th Wedding Anniversary.



The Rev. Alvin Keener

## "Build One For Them" Project

by Tempie Jones

The seed was planted for the Mission Church project at Pleasant Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, North Carolina, when 19 of the Ladies Auxiliary members attended an area study course on Foreign Missions last October, 1997. The speaker was the Rev. Harold Jones, our Foreign Missions Director. He so inspired these ladies with his report on this mission work and needs that they felt the need to respond in some way.

At the next meeting of the Ladies Night Auxiliary a motion was made and carried to build a Mission Church and invite the Rev.

Jones to visit Pleasant Grove to share the work and needs on the Mission Fields with the church membership. The Rev. Jones came in February, 1998, and presented this information to the congregation. At that time, with his help the Auxiliary decided to raise \$10,000 needed to build a Mission Church in Mangingisda, located on Palawan Island in the Philippines. A goal was set to have this amount raised by the end of 1998.

No way could this be accomplished without the help of the entire church family. Therefore, it became a total church project. Many special projects and offerings made it possible to raise the funds by the end of August, 1998.

The Rev. Jones returned to Pleasant Grove on Sunday, September 20, 1998, and was presented a check from the church in the amount of \$10,275.00.

Hopefully, some of our members will be able to go with the Short-Term Team to the Philippines April 17-May 2, 1999, and help with building this church.



The Rev. Jones (right) receives the generous offering from Pleasant Grove.

## People at PCS Phosphate — A tribute to the Rev. John Windley

John Windley wears two hats. One is his PCS Phosphate hat. John has been with the company since 1979, when he began work in the Mill Department. He moved to the Materails department, in the warehouse, and, a couple of years ago, to Materials Recovery. His work involves recycling, and moving obsolete stock such as used equipment. He arranges for sales for regular customers, who check regularly to see what is available, and by seeking out new customers. Recycling and selling old materials and equipment saves thousands of dollars for PCS Phosphate.

John's second hat is worn when he shifts gears and assumes his role as pastor of Whaley's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church. Located near Richlands in Jones County, the church has about 125 members and an average Sunday attendance of 70 to 75 people. The church was founded about 200 years ago.

To prepare for two Sunday services as well as mid-week programs, John utilizes every minute. He reads his Bible and studies while on his ferry on the way to work. The Wednesday night program, called "New Beginnings," starts with a meal which is followed by sword drills, Bible study, devotional time, and programs designed especially for youth and adult



## Old Fashioned Country Baptismal Service *by Veronica Haskett*

Everyone looks forward to these days spent near the water in fellowship with our family of God. Under the beautiful sky God has painted for us, flows the waves of rippling water where our lovely baptisms can be held. Across from Breezy Banks Road in Roper, NC, near the home of our pastor is where you can find this perfect



*Pictured L-R are Shane Taylor, Billy Ambrose, Vance Haskett, Veronica Haskett, Bill Ambrose, Jessica Stalls, and our pastor, the Rev. Billy Reynolds of Mount Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church in Roper, NC.*

location on the Albemarle Sound. Approximately 45 people gathered on October 11, 1998 to share this happy day with the ones being baptized.

I'd like to focus today on 10-year-old Jessica Stalls. She accepted the Lord as her personal Saviour during our last revival held by the Rev. Bobby Carden. Others were saved with some rededicating their lives during this revival and we thank the Lord for each and everyone of them. We all feel the Lord has a special reason for sending us this precious child.

Before the baptismal service, Brother Billy shared with us a note written by Jessica. Following is a copy of this:

Dear Mr. Billy

*Thank you for what you did for making me become a good member of your wonderful church. I am really happy today. I am really glad that I gave my heart to the Lord and that I am getting baptized. I just want to tell you thank you for your support.*

from Jessica Stalls

We just thought this was such a special note from a very special little girl. Everyone's soul is mighty important, but it really touches the heart when someone so young takes the most important step in their life. These young people are the ones we so desperately need to teach about the Lord because they are to be our future leaders.

## People at PCS Phosphate Cont....

groups. Choir practice concludes the evening schedule. These services, plus visitation and work with a wide range of activities for young people in the church, keep John busy.

Days of 17 to 18 hours are rewarding though hectic. John felt the call to preach in 1991 while a member of the Shiloh Original Free Will Baptist Church in Pinetown, where John still lives. He studied on his own and was licensed to preach in 1991; the next year, after passing oral and written exams given by the ordination board, he was ordained. He is now in his second year as full-time pastor of Whaley's Chapel.

His dedication to his church, his wife, and their two children, and his job at PCS Phosphate is commendable. John is a person who does his best to succeed in all of his endeavors.

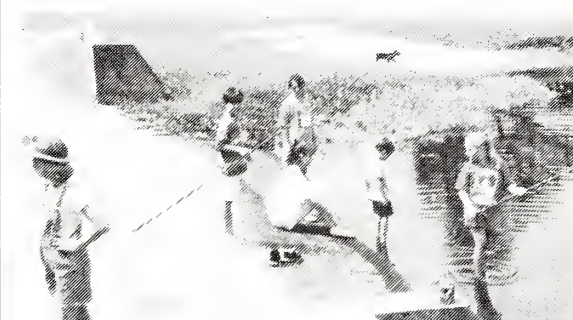
## Successful Vacation Bible School

Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, NC, reports a very successful VBS during the week of September 21-25, 1998, with classes being held during the evening. The directors were Cindy Allen and Kim Parker. The theme was, "Hooked on Jesus."

Vacation Bible School participants attended an outing at the end of the school. As the following pictures show, everyone enjoyed themselves as they went fishing.



*Sometimes things like little turtles get your bait and then leaders have to help. Pictured is leader Ianne McConnell and Curtis Allen; also, students Asia McConnell, Amber Wood, Braxton Hoover, Ahston Hoover, and Amanda Johnson.*



*Fishing for fish is sometimes like fishing for people — you have to really get out into the water.*



*Carla Allen checks out a "tiny one."*



## People & Events

### *Pastor Honored on 20th Anniversary*

*Piney Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Kenly, NC*

When the deacons at Piney Grove FWB Church approached the Rev. Lyn Renfrow about having a Pig Pickin' to dedicate the newly renovated picnic shelter, the Rev. Renfrow did not know that they had ulterior motives! They were secretly planning a celebration of his 20th Anniversary of service as pastor to the church. He didn't suspect a thing until the announcement was made at the dinner on Saturday, October 3. Lyn and his wife, Gaye were told that the dinner was really being held in honor of 20 years of their service to Piney Grove. The dinner was a special time of celebration, food, fun, and fellowship, but there was more to come.

On Sunday morning, October 4, as Lyn was about to welcome the congregation, he watched with a surprise grin as several of his family members were escorted in; daughter, Lynda Sutton and husband, Todd; Kathy Woodard and husband, Jessie all of Kenly. Lyn's sister, Betty Strickland, Hilda Starling and her husband, Kenneth, of Selma. His brother, Harold Renfrow and wife, Gail, of Knightdale. Gaye's mother, Kate Batten and sister Wanda Daughtry. All took their seats on the front row. Lyn and Gaye may have been suspecting

something more at this point, but the service went according to schedule until the Rev. Renfrow was preparing to take the pulpit to deliver his sermon.

At that moment, Ralph Pope, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Deacon interrupted the service. The children were brought back from children's church.

A plaque was presented to the Rev. and Mrs. Renfrow in appreciation of 20 years of service to Piney Grove. They were then told to "sit back and enjoy!" One by one, members of the congregation made their way to the front of the church to tell the couple what their years of service had meant. Some commented on faithfulness, willingness to cooperate, and hard work. Some appreciated their music ministry, Lyn as choir director, Gaye as pianist. Others mentioned thanks for years spent as Sunday school teachers, coordinators, journalist, car-

penter, mentor, secretary, friends, and anywhere else they saw a need. All agreed that they had been much more than merely pastor and wife. All the comments had been written down and were presented in book form to Lyn and Gaye as a keepsake.

The Renfrow's daughter, Lynda



*Left to right: Lyn Renfrow, wife Gaye, Ralph Pope – Board of Trustees presenting Lyn and Gaye a plaque.*

and son-in-law, Todd Sutton, announced that they were dedicating a book to the Church Library in honor of the occasion. The book, *Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul*, is reflective of the inspiration Lyn and Gaye freely provide as parents and ministers of Jesus Christ. Son-in-law, Jessie Woodard sang a special song, "Thank You." He was accompanied by Beth Bess.

When the service concluded, eyes were misty and hearts were warm. The rumor is that a news article isn't necessary since the Rev. Renfrow has already told everyone in North Carolina about the special weekend he and his wife experienced. When asked later about the surprise service on Sunday, Lyn replied, "I was so impressed by the wide variety of people who were willing to stand up in front of the church to speak. Not only adults, but children as well as all ages in between. It really meant a lot to me."

The congregation of Piney Grove voted recently to purchase a plaque in the Rev. and Mrs. Renfrows' honor to be placed on the Wall of Honor at the Free Will Baptist Headquarters in Ayden, NC.



*Pastor Renfrow is in the center supervising Piney Groves best pig cooking.*



### *We Gather Together at Powhatan*

by Rita Otto Jones

On the first and second Sunday of October, the fellowship hall at Powhatan hosted two family gatherings. The Jones Dinner on October 4 was overshadowed by the sad news that Harry Lee Jones was at Chapel Hill Hospital Burn Center following an accident with some gasoline while working on a motor the previous Friday evening. The family asked for prayers on his behalf and he has now returned home and is improving.

The Allen/Parrishes held their reunion on October 11 with many family members returning to visit. Mr. Jack Allen of Goldsboro commented that he enjoyed receiving the *Free Will Baptist* each month and catching up on the news at Powhatan. He grew up in our community and came to church here until he moved away as an adult. Thank you to the family for their generous donation to Powhatan to help in

the building program.

Powhatan's Youth Group held a Brunswick stew and hot-dog dinner on Saturday, October 10. Many pints and quarts were sold to take home in addition to all the bowls that were served in the fellowship hall at lunch. Other items such as baked goods, crafts, calendars, pens, etc. were sold to help increase the Youth Fund. Thank you to the cooks who began on Thursday evening with cooking the chickens and spent more hours on Friday and Saturday to have everything ready.

On Sunday, October 11, Nelson and Carol Blinson brought "beanie baby" type toys to be given to all the youngsters of the church. We gave them out at Sunday school and Children's Church during Worship Service. The kids loved them and we appreciate the Blinson's remembering our youngest

members!

One of Powhatan's trustees announced at the October 14 business meeting that he felt it was time to step down from the board. Mr. J. C. Blinson has been a faithful worker but feels it is time to let a younger man hold the office. We appreciate his many years of dedicated service. Congratulations in October to him and Mrs. Joyce on 66 years of marriage. (Also, to Thedford and Pearl Wood for their 63rd wedding anniversary).

The work behind the church around the cemetery is progressing. Thank you to Deacon Greg Bass and all who have helped him in the clean-up effort.

December is always a special month at Powhatan as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. There will be caroling, the Christmas Play, the Senior Citizen Dinner, etc. We send wishes for a blessed season to all from Powhatan!

### *Pastor Honored*

submitted by Mrs. Sudie Mixon

Sunday, October 11, 1998 was a special day for the congregation of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC. On this day our pastor, the Rev. Wayne King and his wife, Deborah, were honored for their dedication to God and to our church.

Randy Davis, spokesman for the congregation, in paying tribute to Pastor King, said that we should never take anything for granted. We should not take our Heavenly Father for granted, nor Jesus, our Saviour and what He did for us on Calvary. We, instead, should give thanks to our Father for sending His Son and to Jesus for shedding His blood to cover our sins.

Mr. Davis continued his tribute saying that we should also thank people and let them know we love and appreciate them. So, on this day, we gave thanks and paid tribute to our Pastor for what he has done for our

congregation and his contribution to our church and its members. We wanted our pastor to know how much we love and appreciate him. He diligently strives to bring messages that will enlighten our hearts, challenge, and teach us about our Heavenly Father and what we need to assure our rewards upon His return. We appreciate his visits to us, whether it be to one of us or a family member when we are sick at home or in the hospital. Pastor King understands us and is alert to our concerns. We know he is always there to help, listen and pray with us. Whenever the church has a special project going on, Pastor King and Deborah are there helping with hands and hearts.

We know that Pastor King is on a higher plane — that of Jesus Christ, said Mr. David. He loves the Lord and we love Pastor King because he loves and honors our Lord and our Saviour.

We do greatly appreciate him and his wife, Deborah. We are here today for one common cause — to worship God together.

Mr. Davis then presented to the Rev. and Mrs. King a reservation for an all-expense paid weekend getaway at Myrtle Beach in December. In addition, he presented to them a monetary love gift that had been secretly contributed by members of the church.

Pastor King humbly and sincerely expressed gratitude for the generosity of the church family. The congregation gave him a lengthy round of applause and a standing ovation, thus expressing our respect, admiration and love for this dear man of God and his leadership. We thank our Lord for sending us this dear, dedicated family seven years ago and we look forward to our continuing fellowship for years to come.



### *A Letter to Pastor Dewey Boling*

*from his church family of Barnes Hill Free Will Baptist Church on  
Pastor's Appreciation Day — October 16, 1998.*

Dear Pastor Boling,

As your congregation, we have been wanting to write this letter for some time and this day gives us the perfect opportunity. As Pastor Appreciation Day comes we hope that this letter will tell you how we feel about you and your lovely wife, Louise.

We love you and Louise. You are a part of our hearts and this church. You both have given so much of yourselves to us and it means more than we can say.

First, we want to thank you for your unrelenting devotion in directing us toward the straight path to salvation. Because of your steadfastness in this pursuit, some members have rededicated their lives to the Lord, and some have accepted God and His will for their lives, and this, of course, has brought us much happiness and satisfaction. We thank God for His mercy and for sending you to Barnes Hill.

We have watched you lead Barnes Hill Church with an undisguised joy in the Lord. Your sermons reflect your love for Him and your love for us. You've never hidden the fact that you care for us. It's in everything that you and Louise do.

We see you and Louise as you jump into activities with such energy and enthusiasm that it makes us younger ones feel old and tired. You were instrumental in bringing us the Chrismon Program and helped us (financially and physically) with the decorations which were so very beautiful. We have seen you spend your own money to purchase things to make the church home more attractive. You've made suggestions that have helped in meetings, planning activities, painting and fixing up the church and many other things that are too numerous to mention.

All church activities are greeted with an open heart and a willing hand by you and Louise, and you two are al-

ways the first to volunteer, never waiting for someone else to do it. It's really inspiring to watch you and Louise at work and at play.

We watch, amazed at the patience and uncomplicated love you and Louise show. It is as if you have adopted us right into your warm, waiting hearts. Nothing is too hard, too much trouble when you are with the young people. You never talk down to them, you always treat them as if they matter and it's so important for them to know that. You encourage them, temper your teaching with love and humor and I see how proud you are of them whatever they do.

We've never heard you or Louise say "no" when there was someone in need. Even though it is a far distance to travel from Clayton, we've watched you drive through the pouring rain, make it though the frosty snow, and even when you have been sick yourself — you came.

We've seen your calming voice dispel fear in another's heart, felt the tender touch of your hand erase the pain of loneliness from a lined, tired face, and seen your caring heart turn a frown into a smile in the face of a troubled soul.

We laugh as you tease Louise during a service and it gives us hope that humor is still alive and well. You and Louise have shown that love will last, can be teased and survive, can be given, and is returned ten-fold and shared without ever giving out. You have included us in that love, and we are thankful.

In closing, we want to thank you and Louise for coming into our lives. For making Barnes Hill Free Will Baptist Church a good place to be. May God in His wisdom bless your life with love, happiness and peace. We love you.

A love offering and gift was given to the Bolings at the end of the day.

### *Thank You*

*by Pam Casey*

As Preachers go  
We've seen a few  
Some young, some old  
And then there's you!

You top the list  
Of ones who care  
For us your flock  
With us you share

A message given to you by God  
To aid us as we plod along  
Trying hard to live our lives  
To please our Lord in Paradise.

We thank you Pastor and Mrs. Louise  
You travel miles to fill our needs  
We are so glad to have you here  
We must tell you we hold you dear.

Today we'd like to honor you  
And thank you both for all you do.  
Without our Pastor and his wife  
An empty spot would fill our lives.

So thank you Pastor and Mrs. Louise  
We love you dearly  
and are so pleased  
To have this chance to tell you true  
We appreciate the job you do!

We love you.

T — is for the time you spend  
H — is for the hand you lend  
A — is cause you give your all  
N — Never off, always on call  
K — is kindness that you show.

Y — is yes — and never no.  
O — in only God you serve.  
U — Until the end you'll spread  
His Word.

*from the little children*

## Holly Springs Honors Pastor

by Peggy A. Horrell

On Sunday, November 1, 1998, the members of Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, honored their pastor, the Rev. Ray Conner, with a reception following the evening service. October is Pastor Appreciation Month, but October was filled with so many activities like revival and homecoming, November 1 was chosen as the date to show appreciation to the pastor and his family.

The Rev. Conner has been pastor at Holly Springs for two years. During that time the church has added many new members. New ministries have been developed including a second morning service, divorce care, martial arts, and a young families group. Under his leadership the church raised

\$28,000 to build a church, school and parsonage in Agra, India.

Prior to coming to Newport, he was pastor of Oriental Free Will Baptist Church for 10 years. He was also pastor at Friendship Free Will Baptist Church in Wilmington and Associate Pastor and Youth Pastor in Jacksonville, NC.

A graduate of the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, he has completed the course work for his Master's Degree in Counseling from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

He is complemented by his wife of 18 years, Ginny Gaskins Conner. Mrs. Conner is also a graduate of the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville

and has a degree in Christian Education.

The couple have three sons, Raymond, Joseph, and Marcus.

Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church is blessed indeed to have the Rev. Conner and his family.



*The Rev. Conner and family  
at the Pastor Appreciation Celebration.*

## 1998-99 Bible Bowl Study Guide

### Topic: The Loving Touch of Jesus

Luke 2:41-52 ..... Doctors in the Temple  
Matthew 3:13-17 ..... John the Baptist  
Matthew 4:1-11 ..... Satan  
Matthew 4:18-25 ..... Fishermen  
Mark 1:29-34 ..... Simon Peter's Mother in Law  
Matthew 8:5-13 ..... The Centurion  
Mark 2:1-12 ..... Paralyzed Man  
Mark 2:13-17 ..... The Tax Collector  
Matthew 12:22-36 ..... A Demon Possessed Man  
Mark 4:35-41 ..... A Raging Sea  
Mark 5:1-15 ..... Insane Hermit  
Luke 7:36-50 ..... The Sinful Woman with Perfume  
Matthew 15:21-28 ..... The Canaanite Woman  
Matthew 17:1-13 ..... Peter, James, and John  
Mark 9:17-29 ..... Boy with Evil Spirit  
John 3:1-21 ..... Nicodemus

Luke 8:40-56 ..... Bleeding Woman/Dead Girl  
Matthew 16:1-4 ..... Pharisees and Sanhedrin  
Mark 10:17-31 ..... A Young Rich Man  
Luke 10:38-42 ..... Martha and Mary  
John 8:1-11 ..... An Adulterous Woman  
John 9:1-41 ..... A Blind Man  
Mark 10:35-45 ..... Jealous Disciples  
Luke 18:15-17 ..... Little Children  
Luke 19:1-10 ..... Zacchaeus  
Luke 22:66-23: 25 ..... Pilate and Herod  
John 13:1-20 ..... Washing Disciple's Feet  
Mark 14:12-22, 43-52 ..... A Betraying Disciple  
Luke 22:1-6, 47-53 ..... A Betraying Disciple  
John 20:24-31 ..... A Doubting Follower  
Luke 24:36-49 ..... After Death with the Disciples  
Acts 9:1-9 ..... An Enemy Who Hated Him

### Memory Verses: AFC and YFA

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| John 10:3     | Deuteronomy 18:18 |
| Isaiah 40:11  | Matthew 18:20     |
| Matthew 11:29 | Matthew 4:19      |
| Luke 18:16    | Luke 7:38         |
| John 13:14-15 | John 3:14-15      |

### YFA Only

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Luke 2:49    | Luke 8:43-44 |
| Mark 3:10-11 | Mark 3:10-11 |
| Matthew 4:10 | Mark 4:41    |

**Public Speaking Topic:** The Loving Touch of Jesus

**Project:** Home Missions, goal is \$10,000 for the roof of the Administration building for the "Mong."



### CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC, is seeking a youth pastor. Anyone who is interested please contact Worth Starling, 252-237-5541.

Edgewood Free Will Baptist Church is in need of a pastor. Please contact or send resume to: J. T. Trevathan, 5855 Carr Farm Road, Macclesfield, NC 27852; or Raymond B. Webb, 2011 NC 33 West, Greenville, NC 27834.

Reedy Branch Original Free Will Baptist Church, Winterville, NC, is seeking a pastor. Any minister who might be interested may contact: Thomas M. Bowen, 1438 W. Forlines Road, Winterville, NC 28590, or call 252-756-9839.

### *Merry Christmas from the Employees of the Free Will Baptist Press and Bible and Bookstores*

#### *At the Press*

R. Clifford Gray — Executive Director

C. H. Overman — Editor

Robert Hadden — Graphic Arts Manager

Faye Avery, Sheila Benson, Julie Dawson, Mary Ann Davenport

Randy Doughtie, Nina Fussell, Jerry Goff, Wallie Hargrove

Paul Heath, Ronnie Jones, Mike Scott, and Virginia Turnage

#### *Ayden Bible and Bookstore*

Lexine Davis — Bookstore Coordinator

Darren Davenport — Manager

Sharon Early and Lillian McCurdy

#### *Kinston Bible and Bookstore*

Polly Eubanks — Manager

Russell McDaniel and Joyce Brock

#### *Wilson Bible and Bookstore*

Frances Davis — Manager

Ollie Rogerson and Wanda Gail Boswell

#### *New Bern Bible and Bookstore*

Nell Jernigan — Manager

Pam Sasser, Joan Miller, and Joyce Toler

### *Woman's Auxiliary DEVOTION*

*Now Available*

*\$4.50 per copy*

*order from*

*The Free Will Baptist Press*

*PO Box 159*

*Ayden, NC 28513*

### *Available January 1999 Free Will Baptist Youth Program Books*

*for*

*Cherubs, AFC, & YFA*

*\$4.25 each*

*order from*

*The Free Will Baptist Press*

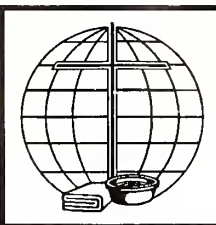
*PO Box 159*

*Ayden, NC 28513*

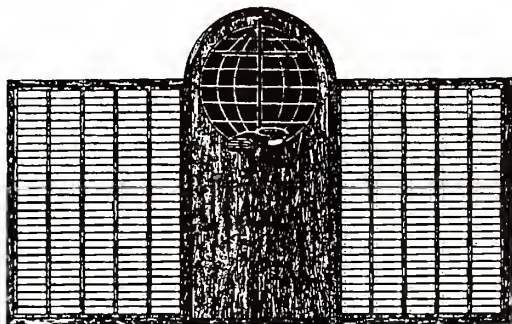
# Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator

Convention  
of Original  
Free Will Baptists



## Wall of Honor for Original Free Will Baptists



### *A Gift that lives...*

The Wall of Honor for Original Free Will Baptists is a gift that lives. The Wall of Honor will remind us of our rich heritage and present joy of serving Christ through the Original Free Will Baptists.

The Wall of Honor is located at the Headquarters of our Denomination.

The Wall of Honor is for any Free Will Baptist (Pastor, Minister, Director, Denominational Leader, Local Church Leader, and all Laity). For someone to be Honored there must be a gift of \$500.00 per person or couple being honored. A plaque with the name of the person being honored and the name of the giver will be placed on the Wall of Honor. Also a special presentation of recognition will be made to the person being honored or his/her family.

### *...and grows*

The gifts received from the Wall of Honor will be used in the following ways: \$250.00 will go into the "Wall of Honor Endowment" and \$250.00 will go into the general funds of the Convention. The Wall of Honor gifts become gifts that help the present, assures the Convention of a ministry in the future, and becomes a lasting tribute to that person honored.

### *My Gift*

Gift is in Memory/Honor (circle one) of:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Bus. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please send acknowledgement of this gift to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Date \_\_\_\_\_

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Mail to:

Headquarters of Original FWB Churches

PO Box 39

Ayden, North Carolina 28513

"But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good,..." Romans 2:10.

## *To date 22 have been included on the Wall of Honor*

Clarence H. Overman

Rev. Jasper S. Overman

by C. H. Overman

May 20, 1997

Mr. Harvey Hinson

Treasurer of Cape Fear Conf. 1940-1997

November 11, 1997

Mrs. Peggy Oakley Hobgood

by United Sunday School Class

December 16, 1997

Rev. and Mrs. Frank Flowers

by Mr. & Mrs. J. B. McLawhorn

December 22, 1997

Rev. Owen L. Peele

by a Friend

December 31, 1998

Mr. Earl H. Holton

by Judy H. Thaanum

December 31, 1997

Mr. Ovelma S. Holton

by Judy H. Thaanum

December 31, 1997

Dr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Parrish

by Elwood Lane Church

January 22, 1998

Mrs. Ruth Moya Taylor  
by First Church, Greenville

January 26, 1998



# Convention Update

## Wall of Honor Cont...

Rev. & Mrs. Walter Reynolds  
by Friendship Church  
February 18, 1998

Rev. David Atkins & wife Janice  
by the Piedmont Conference  
March 26, 1998

Mr. & Mrs. Carroll L. Sellers  
by Elwood Lane Church  
June 10, 1998

Mr. Elmer G. Cline  
by members of his family  
June 10, 1998

Rev. & Mrs. Paul Jenkins  
by Elwood Lane Church  
June 10, 1998

Rev. & Mrs. Fred A. Rivenbark  
by Sherron Acres Church  
June 29, 1998

Rev. Billy Toler and wife Margie  
by Northern Church  
July 11, 1998

Dola Dudley  
by Palmer Memorial Church  
July 30, 1998

Rev. & Mrs. Ralph Sumner  
by Camp Vandemere  
August 4, 1998

Eastern Conference  
September 1, 1998

The Rev. James V. Joyner  
by Kenly Church  
October 4, 1998

The Rev. Bruce Jones and Family  
by King's Cross Roads Church  
October 11, 1998

The Rev. David Hansley  
by members of his family  
November 2, 1998

## 1998 Convention

### Report of Credentials Committee

215 Ministers

76 Visitors

212 Delegates

503 Reported Attendance

| Conference  | Ministers  | Delegates  |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| Albemarle   | 13         | 17         |
| Cape Fear   | 29         | 31         |
| Central     | 43         | 49         |
| Eastern     | 57         | 42         |
| Pee Dee     | 7          | 14         |
| Piedmont    | 3          | 2          |
| Western     | 62         | 57         |
| Paul Palmer | 1          | 0          |
|             | <u>215</u> | <u>212</u> |

### Report of the Resolutions Committee

1. Whereas the office of the President of the United States of America is called upon to make decisions of worldwide significance which requires the upmost leadership and ability; and, whereas the President of the United States of America has shown lack of integrity in his personal life and in the use of the office of President, be it resolved that the Original FWB Denomination be called to lift up the president and other political leaders of our country in prayer that God's will be done in the current crisis in our national leadership.

2. Be it resolved, that the Convention give a rising vote of thanks to the Convention Executive Committee for their work in preparing for the Convention.

3. Be it resolved, that the Convention express thanks to the Rev. Henry Armstrong for his faithful service and devotion to the cause of Christ in the area of Foreign Missions.

4. Be it resolved, that the Convention give a rising vote of thanks to Mount Olive College for being such a helpful and gracious host for the Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Philp Wood, Chairman  
Harold Swinson, Carlee Stallard  
Graham Lane, and De Wayne Eakes

## 1999 COMING EVENTS

|             |                                                                                        |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 12  | Executive Committee Meeting,<br>Headquarters Conference Room,<br>Ayden, North Carolina |
| February 25 | Original Free Will Baptist Day of<br>Prayer                                            |
| April       | Spring Stretch                                                                         |

# Project Solution Review

Project solution had its official beginning in January 1994 when it was adopted by the Convention's Executive Committee. Its basic purpose was "...to examine...the work of our denomination in all of its facets, and then to implement programs and projects that will help meet the challenge of church growth in all areas." Briefly stated, Project Solution has served as a means of self-examination in which we have been made aware of our strengths and areas of concern. The various phases of the Project have focused on the ultimate purpose — "growth."

Results of the survey of 1996 revealed our major concern to be in the area of outreach and evangelism. Thus, the final phase of Project Solution is the implementation of various programs and projects that will fulfill the words of our Lord when He commanded His followers to become witnesses and to make disciples. While evidence of concerted evangelistic efforts is transpiring in a good number of our churches, much still remains to be done in the implementation phase. Thus, Project Solution's Task Force will continue its efforts to fulfill its original purpose, thus offering continual assistance and guidance to our beloved denomination.

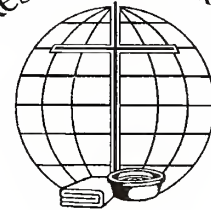
Since its inception more than four years ago, the Task Force has accomplished the following:

1. The development of a denominational Mission Statement, defining the purpose of Original Free Will Baptists.
2. The development of a five-year theme entitled, "The Call to Renewal."
3. A survey form for our churches. This form was completed by at least forty percent of our churches, thus becoming the rallying point for outreach and evangelism.
4. A Vision Statement setting forth three areas of what the mission of the Original Free Will Baptist church must be in the forthcoming years.
5. The development of a denominational Resource Booklet.

The work of Project Solution is not over. As we approach a new century and a new millennium, Original Free Will Baptists must become more committed to the clarion call of evangelism. We must "...work...while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

C.H. Overman, Chairman

## Resource Booklet



Convention  
of  
Original Free Will Baptists

(Prepared by Project Solution Task Force Committee)

## Resource Booklet Available Contains:

*Five-Year Theme*

*Mission Statement*

*Vision Statement*

*Denominational Diagram*

*Ministry Resources*

## Order Your Resource Booklet "Free"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

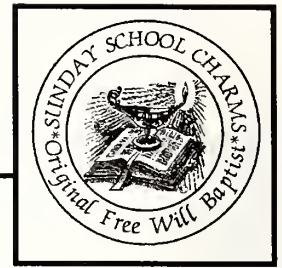
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_

(Send to: Headquarters of Original Free Will Baptist, Post Office Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513 or call (252) 746-4963).





## *Tips on Growing Healthy Sunday Schools*

December brings an end to the year 1998 and ushers in 1999. With one year left until the next century, Original Free Will Baptists need to focus on ways to grow healthy Sunday schools. Several of our churches have shared the successful special events which have occurred in their schools. The Sunday School Board hopes that they will be beneficial as you set your goals for the new year.

- Sausage biscuit breakfast was served at 9:00 AM on Sunday morning.
- Vacation Bible school commencement during morning worship helped set a new Sunday school attendance record.

(Stony Hill Church)

- Training sponsored by the Sunday School Board has been held once each month since September, 1997.
- The Youth are responsible for the Sunday school duties on a regular basis.
- Vacation Bible school commencement was incorporated into the Sunday school hour.

(Whaley's Chapel Church)

- A new Sunday school class for the college age and the young married people has been formed.

(Little Rock Church)

- A Sunday school appreciation day was held to honor Sunday school workers. The Sunday school hour and the morning worship hour were exchanged and the Director of the Sunday School Ministry spoke at the worship hour on the importance of Sunday school. A 'pignic' was enjoyed which was followed by an afternoon of all sorts of games and activities to kick off Vacation Bible School.

(Shady Grove Church)

- A Sunday School Banquet was held to recognize the teachers and workers and to build encouragement and reinforce the good work that they do.

(Selma Church and Deep Run Church)

- Encourage people who travel to send postcards to children in the Sunday school when they are out of town.

(Marlene LeFever)

- Encourage Sunday school classes to adopt community servanthood projects.

(101 Ways to Grow a Healthy Sunday School by Stan Toler)

(For further assistance, please contact Mary Dudley, 1770 Will Cunningham Road, Deep Run, NC 28525.)



# THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens*



"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child,  
I thought as a child: but when I became a man,  
I put away childish things" (1 Corinthians 13:11).

## Maturing Moods of Christmas

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

From childhood until now — a span of seven decades — Christmas remains the highlight of my year. I invite you to join with me in a search for the meaning which makes Christmas a season of such exceedingly great joy.

The historic basis of Christmas is the birth of Jesus, God's gift of the Messiah for the hope and salvation of humankind. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Through the centuries, however, Christmas has become so interwoven with legends, myths, and cultural practices that its historic and true purpose is often obscured. Indeed it is hard, however, to relate the Biblical account of the Birth of Jesus with the prevailing observance of Christmas in America. Like so many other Christian festivals, for example, All Saints Day, which became corrupted as Halloween, there is the danger that Christmas might also become divested of its distinctive Christian meaning.

Furthermore, in an effort to separate Church from State, some courts have ruled that Christian symbols of Christmas cannot be displayed on public property. From a legal point of view, the designation of Christmas as a holiday is now justified on cultural rather than religious grounds.

The solution to the growing secularization of Christmas is not to expect the government to advocate its Christian meaning but for the family and the Church to practice and to teach its meaning. Our challenge is to keep a clear focus on the centrality of Christmas — the Birth of Christ. When historically understood and properly interpreted, many of the accumulated cultural features of Christmas like gifts, lights, and evergreen trees can be the means of enriching our celebration of this Holy season.

## The Santa Claus Mood

My parents taught me to believe in Santa Claus, and I am glad they did. For many senior citizens, our most joyful childhood memory of Christmas was rising early in the morning and finding our stocking at the hearth filled with good things to eat and toys along with new clothes under the tree. When I was a child at the Free Will Baptist Orphanage, one of our most anticipated days was the arrival of Santa Claus (alias Grover Lamm from Milbournie Church in Wilson County), standing in the back of a truck with a large bag of candy, fruit, and nuts for each child.

It was not until years later that I learned the legend of St. Nicholas, a fourth Century bishop of Asia Minor who was considered a patron saint of children. Today, I look on Santa Claus as the personification of goodness and kindness in a world that at times can be cold and harsh.

During World War II, "blackouts" were imposed as a precaution against German submarines which operated along the Atlantic seaboard. A major question was whether the blackout should be enforced on Christmas Eve. Winston Churchill was in Washington visiting President Roosevelt, and in a 1941 Christmas address to the American people he urged that the blackout be lifted. "Let the children have their night," he declared.

## The Family Mood

There is no place we had rather be at Christmas than at home with our family. With the rush of shopping and the hectic traffic behind us, we look forward to the excitement of gathering around the Christmas tree. Presenting gifts to those we love brings immeasurable joy. Within the sanctuary of our family, the problems of the outside world are temporarily screened out.

## The Humanitarian Mood

In the Santa Claus mood of Christmas, the focus is on receiving — the child thinks of Christmas primarily in terms of what he or she receives. In the family mood, our perspective has matured to include not only receiving but also giving. Our focus, however, may still be limited to our family and close friends.

The Christian celebration of Christmas calls for continued maturity. The One whose birthday we are commemorating placed supreme value on compassion — the warmth of the human heart reaching out to the poor, the dispossessed, the lonely, the sick. If we cannot find these people or personally reach them, Christian organizations such as the Salvation Army, World Relief and Homes for Children can help us.

To attain the matured Christian mood of Christmas, we must go beyond ourselves and beyond those who give to us and minister to the needs of those whom our Lord came to serve. One of the greatest joys of Christmas can be giving to those who cannot give to us. "...Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me," said Jesus, (Matthew 25:40).

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5/22/06

You are cordially invited to join us at our

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at the

**Bible & Bookstores**

of

Ayden, Kinston, Wilson, and New Bern

**Saturday, December 5, 1998**

**9:00 AM — 5:00 PM**

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